

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

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Mall Country

The Philippines is a shoppers' dream, home of three of the world's 10 largest malls.

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IT&E gets \$8M ARRA grant

» Increased broadband services in CNMI, Guam

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration has awarded an \$8 million grant to IT&E to increase broadband services in the CNMI and Guam.

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Rainy, foggy Good Friday trek a test of faith and endurance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Heavy rain, fog, wind and mud made yesterday's annual Good Friday pilgrimage to Mount Tapochao the most chal-

lenging for hundreds of adults and children in decades, but reaching the summit was worth the torturous journey.

"For somebody who made the commitment to go up this

See RAINY on Page 4



Over two dozen men from all walks of life wrestle with rain, fog, strong winds and mud as they carry a wooden replica of the Holy Cross from the base to the top of Mount Tapochao as part of the annual Good Friday pilgrimage yesterday morning. Inset shows the arduous task of erecting the cross on its steep and rocky perch.

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PSS sets simultaneous promotions rites for elementary schools. PAGE 2
MMA fighters Fitial, Charley plead not guilty. PAGE 3

Local

CUC places seven projects on 'priority list'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has placed seven projects on its priority list to ensure that target completion dates will be met.

The agency was recently awarded a \$4.05 million grant by the U.S. Department of Interior for the completion of some the high priority undertakings required under two

federal court orders.

The orders—called stipulated order 1 and 2—set the requirements and deadlines for CUC to comply with the mandates of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

These orders were signed in March 2009 and represent the agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Environment Protection Agency.

Stipulated order 1 requires CUC to create a new manage-

ment and financial structure of all aspects of CUC's operations and is related to CUC's inadequacy of providing potable drinking water and wastewater services. Stipulated order 2 involves the lack of infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer facilities of the power generation facilities, and power distribution, including possible environmental site cleanup.

Abe Utu Malae, CUC's as-

sistant executive director for operation, said seven projects will directly benefit from the fresh infusion of Interior funds: construction of a secondary containment, facility response plan, tank system integrity, removing used oil in Tank 104, work plans for power plants 1, 2, and 4, as well as fuel transfer pipeline to power plants 1 and 2.

Malae said all these are in the process of being accomplished to prevent further increases in

the EPA penalties that CUC is accruing for non-compliance with the stipulated order requirements.

Malae disclosed that CUC and EPA are conferring on the construction of a secondary containment. One new construction contract of a large containment, he said, was awarded for power plants 1 and 2 and design work is now under construction. Malae said additional projects are also in the design phase under this specific requirement.

For the facility response plan, CUC has submitted to EPA the documents and additional clarifications on certain requirements are being worked out between the two agencies and the contractors to finalize the facility spill response equipment.

Malae said for the tank system integrity, the agency has already contracted a company for the cleanup and integrity testing of tanks 106 and 105 at power plants 1 and 2 and is currently awaiting EPA's comments to proceed. Other tanks such as 101, 102 and the Rota Tanks will be scheduled pursuant to this ongoing project and will go through the same process.

For the used oil in Tank 104, *Saipan Tribune* learned that a contract was awarded and a contractor has already been mobilized for arranging the oil transfer and disposal.

Malae said CUC has sent the updated plans to EPA and is coordinating with them on the project.

Meantime, EPA has reviewed the work plans for power plants 1, 2 and 4 and additional comments are being incorporated now by CUC.

"As soon as they are finalized, they would be sent to EPA for final review and upon approval, the implementation phase [of the plan] will be initiated," Malae said.

For the fuel transfer pipeline to power plant 1 and 2, *Saipan Tribune* was told that CUC has issued a request for proposal for the design beginning March 22 and will be selecting the most responsive proposer after closing the RFP.

Upon approval of the design by EPA, a contract will be issued for supply, construction and installation.

"If CUC does not meet these deadlines, penalties would accrue," Malae told *Saipan Tribune*.

As of middle of February this year, CUC has accrued over \$4 million in penalties for non-compliance with the requirements of the federal stipulated orders.

CUC executive director Tony Muña, however, said the corporation will settle these accrued penalties with EPA.

PSS sets simultaneous promotion rites for elementary schools

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System will hold promotional rites for all elementary school students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on the last day of classroom instruction on June 18.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan relayed this to the PSS leadership during a meeting last Tuesday.

Elementary school principals' representative Charlotte Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that all grade schools will simultaneously hold promotional rites for their sixth graders on that date but they will have the flexibility to choose the time.

Camacho, who is also the principal of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, disclosed that no Board of Education and Commissioner Awards will also be given out during the promotion for grade levels.

Top academic awardees will be conferred the principal's and vice principal's awards, the equivalent of the valedictorian and salutatorian awards respectively.

Because of the simultaneous events, Camacho said it is possible that the commissioner and members of the Board of Education won't be able to appear in some of the promotional rites.

However, Camacho said, the

commissioner and the BOE have assured that all graduation ceremonies for middle and high schools on three islands will be attended by its officials.

In the secondary school graduation, top achievers in the graduating class will be conferred the Board of Education and Commissioner awards.

PSS officials set commencement exercises for Tinian Junior and Tinian High School on June 10, while that of Rota Junior and High School's will be on June 11.

On Saipan, the commissioner and the board assured their presence on June 14 at the Marianas High School; Hop-

wood Junior High on June 15; Kagman High School on June 16; Chacha Oceanview Junior High on Chacha Oceanview; and Saipan Southern High School on June 18.

Classes were cancelled several times this school year due to a number of non-working holidays, prompting PSS to schedule make-up days for the lost instructional hours.

PSS has set the last day of classes on June 18 for the current school year. The proposed opening for the new school year is on Aug. 13. However, due to the expected "overlaps" in the teachers' 190-day contracts, the schedule may be pushed back to a later date.

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MMA fighters Fitial, Charley plead not guilty

Mixed Martial Arts fighters Kelvin David Fitial and Maitai K. Charley have pleaded not guilty on separate assault charges.

Fitial pleaded not guilty to aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Charley pleaded not guilty to two counts of assault and battery, one count of criminal mischief, one count of assault, and four counts of disturbing the peace.

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja set Fitial's status conference on April 29 at 9am and Charley's on May 3, 2010, at 1:30pm.

According to the charging information filed by Chief Prosecutor Rosemond Santos, Fitial assaulted Scott L. Thompson last Feb. 12 and disturbed the peace of Joon Sung Kim.

In Charley's case, Santos said he kicked and punched Chito Soler Cristobal on the head and chest last Feb. 6.

Charley also allegedly damaged the passenger door of a Nissan Sentra car owned by Feminencio Ancheta Fernando and Maria Pasol Fernando.

Santos said Charley also assaulted Maria Pasol Fernando and disturbed the peace of all four victims, including a minor child.

Detective Jackson W. Jack stated in his report that, according to Thompson, Fitial punched him several times for no apparent reason along Beach Road near The Flair Bar in Garapan. The victim sustained a black eye.

Jack said preliminary investigation showed that Thompson was about to leave with a friend, Jong Sung Kim, when Fitial passed by and cussed them.

When Thompson asked if there's a problem, Fitial allegedly attacked him with 15 to 20 punches in the face.

In Charley's case, Detective P. Cabrera said a boy witnessed how the MMA fighter pushed and kicked his father, Chito Cristobal.

Cabrera said the 10-year-old boy was traumatized by the attack and has been having nightmares since the night of the incident. The boy is also reportedly suffering from bowel disorder.

Cristobal sustained a slight

contusion on his head.

The detective stated in his report that a police officer responded to Winchell's in Susupe last Feb. 6 at 11:18pm after police received a call about an assault incident.

Preliminary investigation showed that Feminencio Fernando and his wife, Maria Fernando, had just arrived at Winchell's when a man, later identified as Charley, approached their vehicle, shouting.

Charley tried to open the doors of the car but when he failed to do so, he allegedly punched the front passenger door and kicked it thrice.

Fearing for their safety, Mrs. Fernando, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, got off and ran into Winchell's, yelling for help.

Cristobal, his son, and another man were inside Winchell's. To protect his son, Cristobal stood by the entrance and met Charley.

Cristobal asked Charley to respect the place, but the defendant allegedly pushed him on the chest and kicked him once on the face. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Federal court denies Pelisamen's bid for release

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen's request that he be freed from jail pending his appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals has been denied.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja stated during Thursday's hearing that he would later issue a written order.

Pelisamen's lawyer, Douglas Cushnie, claimed that his client is being abused and denied medical care since being taken by the U.S. Marshal's Service to Guam on Jan. 29. He said his client has not received any medical treatment

and is being subjected to harsh incarceration.

Cushnie claims his client was unable to stand or walk, not long after being placed in custody. He said Pelisamen was and is now confined to a wheelchair.

He said Pelisamen's severe back pain requires surgery but remains untreated to this day.

Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler opposed the motion on behalf of the U.S. government, saying Pelisamen has not met his burden to secure his release pending appeal.

Schuler said the U.S. Marshals Service has not subjected Pelisamen to any sort of "extra-judicial punishment," and it has not violated any court

order in transferring him to Guam for imprisonment and medical care.

Naraja called for a recess in order for him to review U.S. Marshal's documents regarding the transfer of Pelisamen to a designated prison facility in Hawaii.

Naraja later remanded Pelisamen to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Pelisamen used to serve as administrator of the estate of Rita Kaipat, which received \$1.37 million in distribution. The federal court sentenced Pelisamen to five years in prison for unlawful use of the estate's funds and ordered him to pay \$625,775 in restitution.

49 students attend NMC Smart Start on Rota

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Forty-nine students from Rota Junior High School, Rota High School, and the Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education Program participated in the Start Smart Seminar organized by the college on Monday at the Rota Junior High School campus.

Different presentations taught participants the importance of a college degree, ways to enter college, ways to pay for college, and how to succeed in college.

Four current NMC students who are former residents of Rota joined the team to help encourage their peers on the island to pursue higher education after high school.

NMC coordinator Martin

Mendiola facilitated one presentation titled "Our Experience," where the students shared their college life experiences.

Former Board of Regent member Jack Manglona also briefed participants about the newly introduced Rota Municipal Scholarship grant. He encouraged students to take advantage of their assistance options, which will be made available within the year.

The keynote speaker, NMC alumna Elvira Manglona, sought to inspire and motivate the participants by speaking about the struggles she had to overcome to her dream of obtaining a college degree. Manglona is now a teacher at Rota High School.

Later that night, NMC hosted a one-hour Parents' Night at the

same venue, during which parents learned about NMC's history and accreditation, the cost of a college education, financial aid options, and a unique presentation designed to assist parents on how to be financially and emotionally supportive of their future graduates.

NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera said that the college is proud of its accomplishment "to help educate students from Rota who participated in our recent Rota Start Smart about the importance of higher education."

"The event was a great success and we are looking forward to continued partnership with the Public School System to send the message that education should be made a top priority after high school," she added.

1 in Rota human smuggling case pleads guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

One of the five Chinese nationals who were arrested on Rota for allegedly planning to sneak into Guam aboard two rubber boats has pleaded guilty in federal court and was sentenced to three months' probation.

Jingfan Zhang agreed to a plea bargain with the U.S. government, pleading guilty to eluding examination and inspection.

At the Thursday afternoon hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman accepted the plea agreement and went ahead with the sentencing after assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler stated that both parties have agreed to have the sentencing at

that time.

Schuler said the offense is a Class B misdemeanor and that there was no need for the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a presentence investigation report.

The prosecutor recommended a probation sentence of three years. Court-appointed counsel, Steven Pixley, agreed with the recommendation.

Wiseman ordered that during the probationary period, Zhang shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime. He said the Zhang shall not unlawfully use and or possess a controlled substance.

The judge, however, suspended the mandatory drug testing requirement after determining that Zhang poses a low risk of future substance abuse.

Wiseman ordered him to pay a \$10 court assessment fee.

He dismissed the remaining two charges: conspiracy to commit offenses and to defraud the U.S.; and attempted improper entry by an alien.

According to the plea agreement, Zhang attempted to secretly travel from Rota to Guam by boat with four co-defendants, eluding examination and inspection by immigration officers.

On Jan. 30, 2010, Zhang and four others boarded two rubber boats at the West Harbor docks at 4am, prompting law enforcement personnel to intercept the boats.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in his report that the five flew from Saipan to Rota last January.



BUDGET TALKS

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Vicky Villagomez of the Office of Management and Budget, meet with the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands and their respective budget representatives to discuss the governor's proposed budget submission for municipalities for Fiscal Year 2011. Fitial has cut by almost half the workforce at the Saipan Mayor's Office due to lower revenue projections for the next fiscal year.

Widow sues for death of husband hit by SUV

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The widow of a construction worker who was killed when a vehicle hit him as he crossed Monsignor Martinez Road in As Lito last October has filed a wrongful death lawsuit.

Mariel Falalimpa, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, sued Duane Quitugua Richards, Marvin Tydingco, and Melva Ann Ada.

Richards was the alleged driver of a vehicle that killed Mariel Falalimpa's husband, Joselito Baysauli Falalimpa. Tydingco and Ada are the alleged owners of the vehicle.

Mariel Falalimpa filed the lawsuit on behalf of herself and as personal representative of her deceased husband.

She asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay her damages for the benefit of her and her children. She also demanded burial and funeral expenses as well as court costs.

The Falalimpa couple have two children ages 5 and 4.

Smith stated in the complaint that on Oct. 24, 2009, Joselito Falalimpa was walking down the street in As Lito when a vehicle being driven by Richards hit him, throwing him more than 200 feet down the road.

Joselito Falalimpa died to the severe injuries he sustained.

Smith said the speedometer gauge of the vehicle was covered by a family picture, making it impossible for Richards, or any driver, to monitor the speed of the vehicle.

"Within moments of the accident, Mrs. Falalimpa was at her husband's side and witnessed his body lying in a pool of his own blood in the middle of the road, and stayed at his side during the turmoil surrounding the immediate aftermath of the accident until the police and medics took Mr. Falalimpa's body to the morgue," Smith said.

A CHC doctor pronounced the victim dead that same night.

The lawyer said the defendants had a legal duty to maintain and operate their car in a manner that ensured it was reasonably safe and free from impairments and hazardous conditions.

He said the defendants had a duty to maintain that the instrument panel and speedometer of the car was visible.

Saipan Tribune learned that prior to the accident Joselito Falalimpa had just attended a party with his wife and two children at a friend's house near Shell Station in Dandan.

At 9pm, Mariel Falalimpa and two children decided to leave the party because the children were already sleepy.

A friend later dropped Joselito Falalimpa in front of his barracks in As Lito. He was crossing the road when the speeding Toyota Rav 4 struck the victim.

Falalimpa flew several feet away due to the strong impact of the collision, witnesses said. The vehicle's windshield was shattered.

Extending private land lease to 99 years pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A legislative initiative seeking to extend private land lease from the existing 55 years to 99 years is now up for voting in the House of Representatives after the Senate passed it in March.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan), author of Senate Legislative Initiative 17-04, SD1, said his legislation proposes

an amendment to Article XII Sections 3 and 5 of the CNMI Constitution to change the term permanent and long-term interests in real property from 55 years to 99 years.

He said such move will revitalize major investments in the CNMI, and will also revive the real estate market that will in turn benefit landowners, real estate brokers, and investors.

This legislation also changes the

definition of a Northern Marianas descent corporation, from an entity with directors who are 100 percent to only 51 percent persons of Northern Marianas descent. It shall also have voting shares at least 51 percent of which are actually owned by persons of Northern Marianas descent.

The measure requires three-fourths vote from the House.

“Once the House passes this legisla-

tion, it will be transmitted to the governor and the Board of Elections for the Board’s instructions to be placed on the ballot before the people of the Commonwealth for a ratification vote in conformance with the Article XVIII, Section 5 of the CNMI Constitution and 1CMC Subsection 6432,” Crisostimo told Saipan Tribune.

Over the years, proposals to extend permissible term for private land leases in the CNMI have been unsuccessful.

Previous supporters, including the governor’s Strategic Economic Devel-

opment Council, had described an earlier proposal to extend it to 75 years as “perhaps the most important policy change needed for tourism enhancement.”

The council, which is made up of government and business leaders, noted that longer lease terms would allow the CNMI to compete for investments with neighboring jurisdictions.

Foreign nationals can own land fee simple in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland. Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia offer 99-year leases for both public and private lands.

RAINY

From Page 1

mountain, the bad weather is a challenge but it’s not a reason to give up. It’s a test of one’s faith. I do this as part of my repentance. I have been doing this for 24 years and this is the toughest and most challenging as far as I can remember,” Joe Itibus, 48, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview right after he helped plant a wooden replica of the Holy Cross at the mountain’s rocky and steep summit.

Itibus, wearing a yellow raincoat, was among over a dozen men who helped carry the cross from the base of Mount Tapochao on Capital Hill to the top, starting at 7:25am.

It was the closest they could get to re-enacting the passion of Christ, but without the self-flagellation done in other predominantly Catholic countries during the Holy Week.

The trek took almost one hour as the cross reached the top at 8:23am, followed by a Catholic Mass with overcast skies as the backdrop.

Planting the wooden cross at the mountain’s rocky apex took much longer than usual as over two dozen men had to battle with the strong wind and rain, while others below who were equally soaked in rainwater watched in anticipation.

The rain became heavier just when the men were on the steep hill to plant the cross on its rocky perch, using ropes that the men alternately pulled and released. The wooden cross almost fell at least twice in the process, with the crowd below gasping every time. The whole scene was a spectacle in itself.

At 9am, the ordeal was over as the replica of the Holy Cross hovered over

everyone who made the trek to Saipan’s highest point. There was clapping of hands and cheering. But it took a few more minutes to stabilize the cross and remove the ropes that enabled the men to lift and plant it in its place.

The annual trek to Mount Tapochao, the highest point on Saipan at 1,545 feet, has become a part of the observance of Good Friday on Saipan. It brings together people from all walks of life, races and ages.

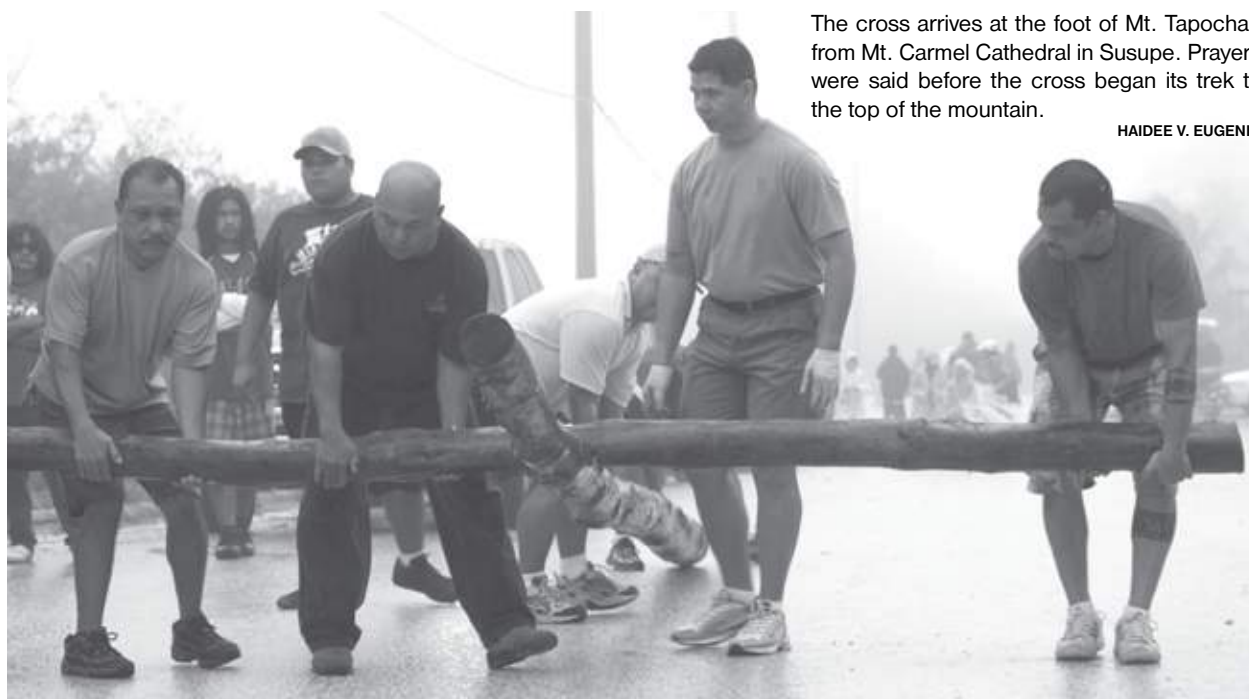
For others, the trek was more than a religious ritual or a celebration of Catholic faith, atonement of sins, and a time to reflect on life’s journey. It was also quality time spent with families and friends, an early morning exercise, or simply a chance to enjoy the view on a non-working holiday.

Some people began their hike at 4am and 4:30am, while others were just about to begin their journey at 10am.

An elderly couple shared an umbrella under a tree when the rains began to pour heavily, but the strong winds made it difficult for the umbrella to hold still. A father carried his son on his shoulders. A man walked with his dog in tow. Teens sharing stories and laughter as they walked. Couples holding hands and holding umbrellas. Parents consoling their children that the arduous walk was almost over. These were just among the unforgettable scenes and faces on the way up and back.

Benny Iriarte, 58, and his wife Alice made their annual trek to Mount Tapochao with their 3-year-old granddaughter, Tehani Cepeda, in tow. Throughout the trek, Mr. Iriarte pushed and pulled his granddaughter’s stroller which he and his wife covered in plastic to protect the child from rain, wind and fog.

“We made this our tradition every year,” Mr. Iriarte said as he and his



The cross arrives at the foot of Mt. Tapochao from Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Susupe. Prayers were said before the cross began its trek to the top of the mountain.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

family were taking a break from the one-hour journey up the mountain.

He said a few years back, his daughter who was over eight months pregnant, successfully completed the pilgrimage.

At certain points, the images of children and adults walking in foggy and dark dirt roads leading to and from the mountain were as eerie as the scenes in the movies *Sleepy Hollow* or *Twilight Zone*.

On a sunny day, the peak of Mount Tapochao offers an incredible 360-view of Saipan, but the fog and rain reduced the visibility. The concrete statue of Jesus Christ at the top could hardly be seen.

As it does every year, the Office of the Governor—regardless of who’s in power—put up tents at the starting point of the trek, giving out free water, fruits, and other food items to those who were

on their way up or down the mountain.

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and its volunteers in yellow raincoats were also at their usual spot, ready to provide first aid when needed, as well as drinks to trekkers.

Other non-profit groups such as the MDX Radio Group Saipan, the United Filipino Organization, CNMI Power and the Bicol Association of the Northern Mariana Islands also set up tents as early as Thursday night to provide free food and drinks to those who made the journey to the mountain.

“We started setting up our tents at 9:30pm on Thursday, and because of the rain and wind, it took us much longer to set them up but we finally made it. As a non-profit group, we’re always happy to be of help to the community,” said MDX Radio Group Saipan president Sandie Pablo.

The group gave out free coffee, soup,

tuna sandwich and water, among other things, to trekkers.

A Korean woman who joined the pilgrimage to Mount Tapochao for the first time offered to pay for her food and drinks, not knowing that they were provided free of charge to anyone who wanted it.

“These are all free,” one MDX Radio Group member told the woman, who was thankful for the group’s offerings.

Department of Public Safety officers and Saipan Mayor’s Office personnel were also on standby to help maintain peace and order, and ready to assist those who needed them. An Emergency Medical Service vehicle was also going back and forth to provide help when the need arises.

However, some areas alongside the road were littered with used Styrofoam cups and plastic bottles left behind by trekkers.

IT&E

From Page 1

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that although the \$8 million will be shared between the CNMI and Guam, he is optimistic the expansion of broadband access will spur economic growth, create jobs, and improve education and health care for the islands.

“We need to continue working hard to secure more funding opportunities. What is good for the economy is good for the Commonwealth,” he said in a statement.

Ricky Delgado, IT&E president and CEO, said yesterday that IT&E is “very happy with this news.”

He said IT&E will come out with an official answer to *Saipan Tribune* questions about the grant in the next few days.

The \$8 million grant will increase broadband access and adoption by upgrading the existing telecommunications network serving remote and underserved areas.

In a separate statement, NTIA said

the project is expected to directly connect more than 400 community institutions to the broadband network, including community colleges, K-12 schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, and public safety organizations.

NTIA’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

“A high-speed broadband network will enable government agencies, schools, and businesses in the NMI to benefit from technological services like videoconferencing and other advanced capabilities,” Fitial added.

Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling said broadband plays a critical role in helping communities achieve durable, sustainable economic growth.

“Like the grant announced today, the strongest proposals we have received are the ones that have taken a truly

comprehensive view of the communities to be served and have engaged as many key members of the communities as possible in developing the projects,” he said.

NTIA received more than 1,800 applications proposing projects totaling nearly \$19 billion during the first Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funding round and has just received a second round of BTOP applications.

Competitive grant

The governor said that, while this was a competitive grant within the CNMI and Guam, he lauded the efforts of the CNMI Department of Commerce in providing assistance and support to the three applicants from the CNMI—Docomo, Northern Marianas College, and IT&E.

“Given the competitive nature of this grant, it was very important that we assisted our three applicants to ensure that the Commonwealth received its fair share of the \$8 million grant. I want to recognize Commerce Secretary Mike Ada and his staff for their continued efforts to bring more ARRA funds to the

NMI,” he said.

IT&E plans to bring the first high-capacity broadband services to Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands through this grant, the governor added.

The telecommunications firm will also work on upgrading existing network infrastructure, replacing the existing inter-island transmission system using fiber, 3G wireless, and WiMax technology.

‘Greatly appreciated’

Joseph N. Camacho, the Covenant Party’s candidate for CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, separately issued a statement yesterday congratulating IT&E for the ARRA grant award.

He said IT&E’s commitment to expanding the opportunities to CNMI citizens “is greatly appreciated and incredibly heartwarming.”

“I understand the grant funding will allow IT&E to increase broadband offerings in the CNMI including WiMAX (4G) and enhanced 3G Wireless. The funding will also help to provide additional jobs to the community and

hopefully decrease broadband prices to consumers,” he said.

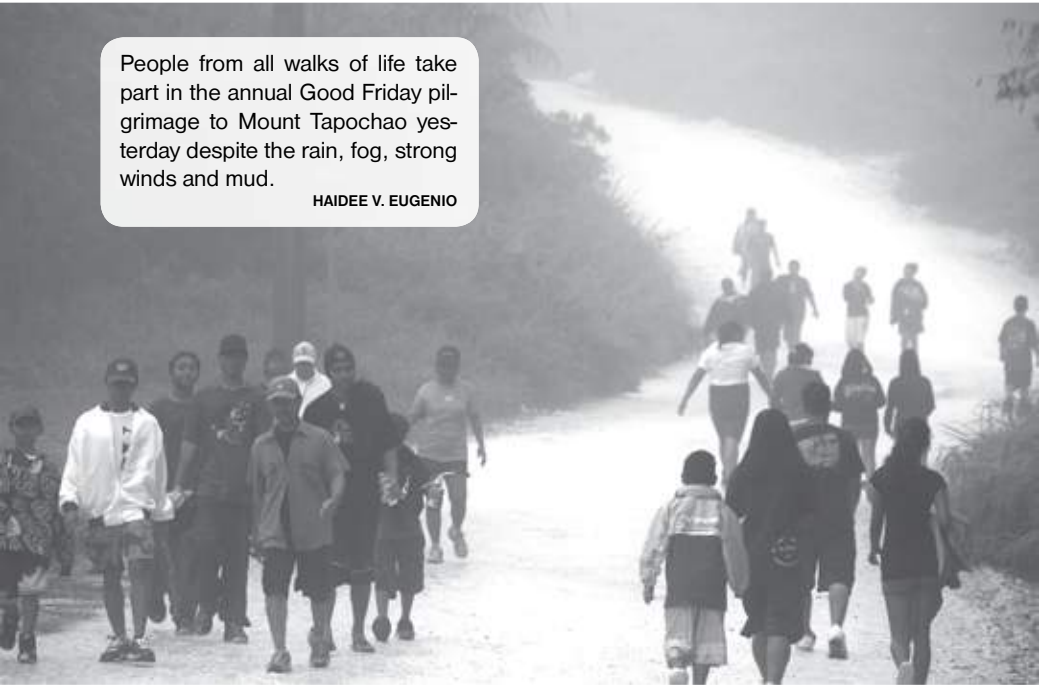
Camacho, a former House floor leader, thanked the U.S. Department of Commerce for providing the CNMI with yet another incentive for companies to not only expand but also open up new operations on the islands.

“I applaud IT&E for their application and hard work in winning the competitive grant. Additionally, our appreciation needs to be extended to the governor and the CNMI Department of Commerce for supporting not only IT&E, but NMC and Docomo’s applications for similar funding,” he said.

He said the Executive Branch has been working diligently to ensure that the CNMI receives its fair share of ARRA funding, including for energy efficiency, education and now broadband programs.

“I understand this is a team effort and believe strongly in our local government to work with the federal government to procure and execute ARRA related projects as spearheaded by the local Department of Commerce,” Camacho added.

Good Friday Pilgrimage



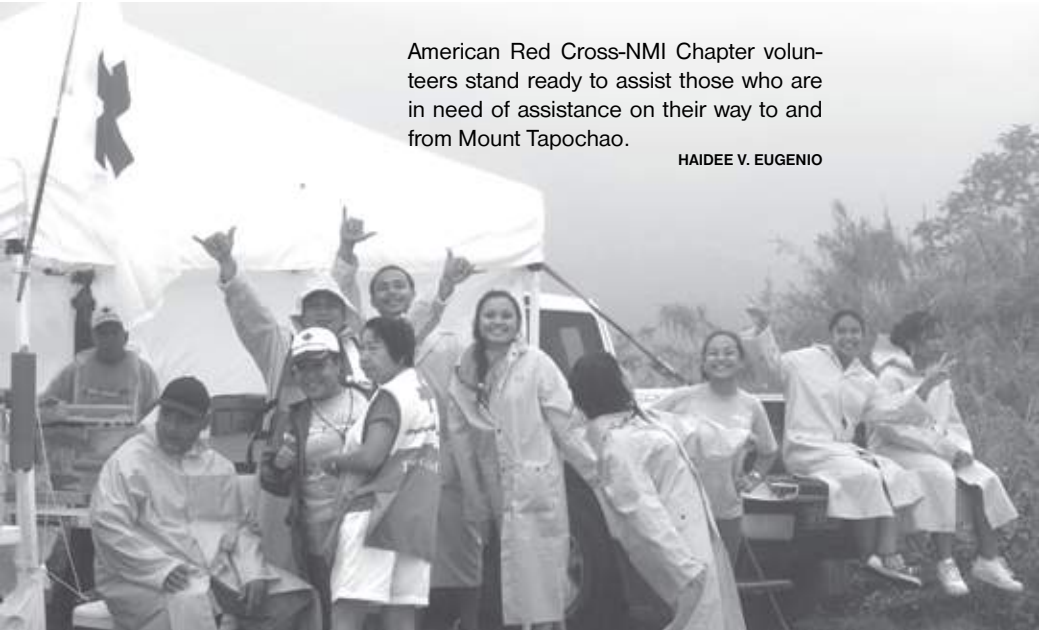
People from all walks of life take part in the annual Good Friday pilgrimage to Mount Tapochao yesterday despite the rain, fog, strong winds and mud.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



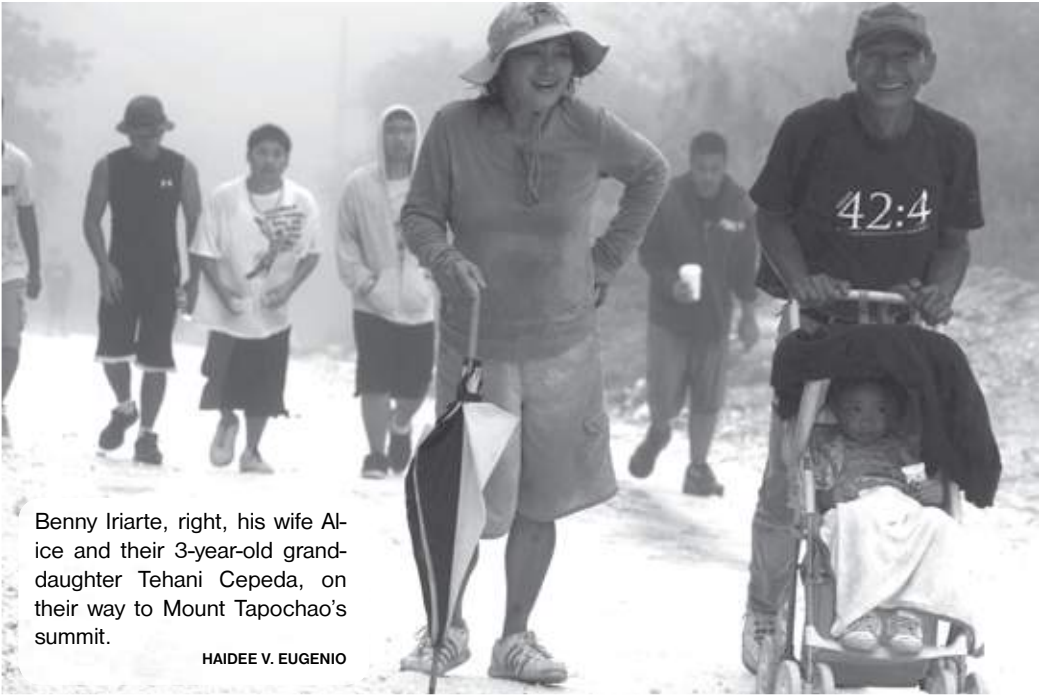
Many consider this year's Good Friday trek to Mount Tapochao as the most challenging because of the stormy weather.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



American Red Cross-NMI Chapter volunteers stand ready to assist those who are in need of assistance on their way to and from Mount Tapochao.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Benny Iriarte, right, his wife Alice and their 3-year-old granddaughter Tehani Cepeda, on their way to Mount Tapochao's summit.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



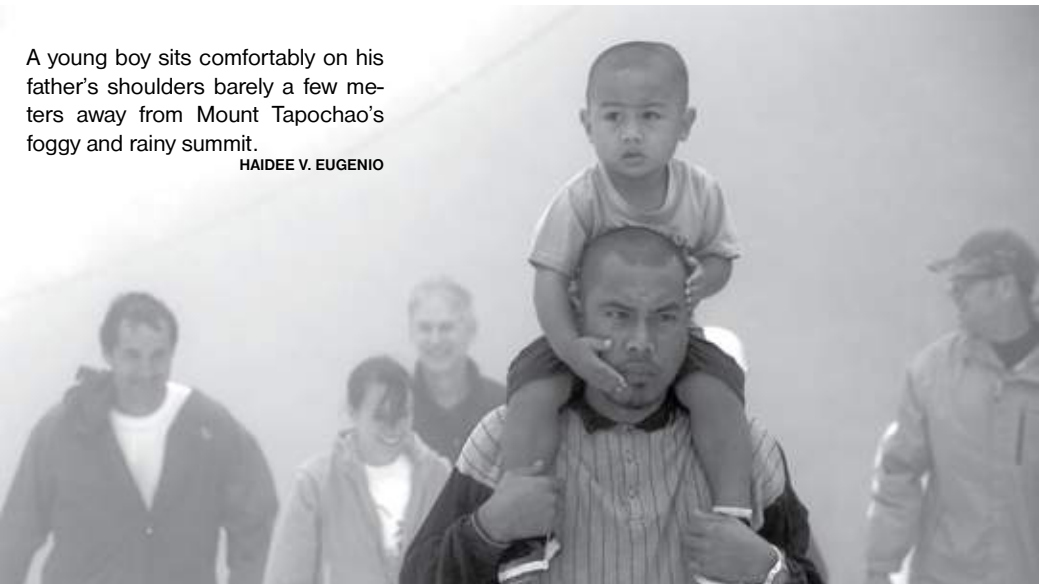
United Filipino Organization members and supporters pose in front of their tent alongside the road leading to and from Mount Tapochao, providing free food and drinks to passersby.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



MDX Amateur Radio Club Saipan members and supporters pose in front of their tent, which they set up Thursday night, in time for the Good Friday pilgrimage wherein they distributed free food and drinks.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



A young boy sits comfortably on his father's shoulders barely a few meters away from Mount Tapochao's foggy and rainy summit.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Fog blurs the statue of Jesus Christ and the people standing in front of it, at the summit of Mount Tapochao yesterday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

End hate speech in politics

It's been obvious for some time that political discourse in this country has been coarsened by angry voices on the right and left, but recent outbursts of hostility have taken political differences to dangerous levels.

Threats, expletives and vandalism have become weapons of choice for a few on the far ends of the political spectrum, crossing the line from legitimate opposition into criminal activity. It's gone far enough for the police and FBI to say they are investigating attacks and threats against Democratic members of Congress who voted for health care reform.

So far, the damage has been limited to property, and the name-calling has not resulted in any actual fist-fights, but that's hardly a reason for comfort. There's a difference between free speech and hate speech with the potential to incite violence. Some political leaders and commentators either don't know the difference or are willfully ignoring the consequences of inflammatory speech and imagery.

It starts with yelling, "You lie!" at the president during the State of the Union speech and goes on with shouts of "baby-killer" aimed at a supporter of health care reform on the floor of the House. This not only poisons the political environment but also polarizes the debate and makes the underlying differences impossible to reconcile by conventional political means.

Robust debate has long been a part of the American political tradition. In a time of increasing partisanship, though, elected leaders have a responsibility to exercise restraint. There is a difference between rallying the troops and inciting them to anger, and when former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin urges supporters on Twitter, "Don't retreat. Instead—RELOAD," it only makes matters worse.

The anger virus infecting the body politic doesn't stop in Washington. In Tallahassee, Fla., last week, security personnel had to form a protective cordon after an emotional debate in the House PreK-12 Policy Committee ended with angry teachers yelling and shaking their fists at lawmakers.

In Washington, House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, has condemned the violence and threats as unacceptable and told supporters to "channel their anger into positive change." Other elected leaders should also make a strong and unequivocal commitment to civil discourse and lead by example. Step back from the brink before it's too late.

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Russia's hot spot

By RAJAN MENON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The suicide bombings of two Moscow subway stations that killed 39 people Monday appear to have emanated from a place that few people could find on a map: Russia's North Caucasus region, a sliver of land wedged between the Black and Caspian seas that is home to 7 million people.

Russian czars annexed the North Caucasus in the latter part of the 19th century after wars that lasted several decades, but the people in the region were reluctant Russians. No sooner did the Soviet colossus start wobbling than the region, particularly the breakaway republic of Chechnya, descended into chaos.

The results have been gruesome. Russia has fought two full-scale wars to retain control of Chechnya (from 1994 to 1996 and from 2000 to 2009), though Moscow has tried to cast its role as fighting terrorism. In 2009, Russia proclaimed victory by declaring an end to its "counter-terrorism operations" in Chechnya and turned over full control to the republic's president since 2007, Ramzan Kadyrov, who has ruled with an iron fist and has tried to use economic reconstruction to weaken the insurgents. The results have been mixed at best.

Violence continues to rock Chechnya, and the perpetrators have grown increasingly militant in their fundamentalism, fighting not just for independence from Russia but also to establish an Islamist state based on Sharia law in the North Caucasus, which also includes Ingushetia, North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-Cherkessia, Adygea and Dagestan.

The militants recently have vowed to extend their operations into the Russian heartland, so that ordinary Russians can no longer regard the North Caucasus as a faraway place of little consequence to them. Monday's bombings certainly achieved that objective.

What's even more problematic for Moscow is that the blood-letting in the North Caucasus is no longer limited to Chechnya. It has engulfed the neighboring republic of Dagestan, which borders Chechnya to the east, and more recently has spread west into Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

The expanding violence has included abductions, assassinations, suicide attacks, car bombings and even operations by insurgents in-

volving protracted and pitched battles against security forces. The number of militant Islamist cells has increased throughout the region. Foreign fighters, some of whom subscribe to millenarian variants of Islam (which stand in stark contrast to the Sufi-based Islam practiced in the North Caucasus), also have joined the struggle.

But to blame the mayhem of the North Caucasus on "Wahhabis" and "jihadists," as Moscow tends to do, is to deny its complex origins. Russia has inflamed tensions in the region by propping



up corrupt local elites. Security forces take bribes and practice torture. Nationalities shoe-horned into Soviet-era republics now seek to unite with their co-ethnics in other republics. The unemployment rate has soared: In Ingushetia, for example, it exceeds 50 percent. Young men are driven to extremist ideologies because they are hopeless, have seen relatives disappear after having been swept up in ubiquitous police dragnets, or have themselves suf-

See RUSSIA'S on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Sabalu Gloria

I do not know whence the image of Black Saturday came from, but I have heard it often mentioned in reference to the Christian liturgical ambience of today. It must be because black religious vestments drape most icons of piety in many altars this day, even on the Oleai wooden crosses of the San Jose Parish Church on Saipan.

In my youth, it was Sabado/Sabalu Gloria, something akin to the Bible's Martha in the story of Lazarus' sisters in Bethany, Mary being the adoring one who sat at Jesus feet, and Martha going about quietly doing house chores in preparation of the Seder meal (from whence the tradition of the Maundy Thursday's Last Supper was derived) to launch the Passover festivities. In any case, Saturday was a day of quiet yet relentless and productive labor in my parent's house.

In Eastern Orthodox liturgy, Easter begins on Saturday sundown, while the Roman rite extinguishes all lights an hour before midnight, and then the first candle at the altar is lit at Nocturn (midnight) ending in Matins (3am) and proceeding to Lauds (dawn) when the Hallelujah Chorus explodes. If these are all Greek to the reader, I grew up in a Protestant household, so this is all Latin to me, too! The point is that on Sunday morning within Christendom, the spiritual fireworks of cosmic proportions rehearse with higher decibels the thunderous symphony of the original Big Bang!

Saturday comes before the glorious emergence of the new Heaven and the new Earth. Thus, to many, Saturday is the massive cleanup of the dirt nooks in our homes, the clearout of garbage piles in our surroundings, the settling of animosities especially among siblings, and the dusting of the cobwebs of our minds.

This day in China, it is also the beginning of the Qing Ming Jie tomb-sweeping three-day holidays, a time to clear the debris around the tombs of ancestors, akin to the frenzy of activities that come before All Souls' Day at the Mt. Carmel cemetery. Monday, April 5, is China's Ancestors' Day, a legal holiday. Along with the days before New Year's on both the solar and lunar calendar, Sabalu Gloria is also a day of concluding existing obligations and fulfilling the terms

of one's promises and resolutions. The Gloria part is the quintessential celebration of the return to oblivion; Friday's silence is on profound stillness, Saturday's quietude is on completion and final consummation.

In one of the dusting off of the cobwebs of our social mind, I suggest that we rid ourselves of the lingering and debilitating impact of a policy that emerged from a misreading of Charles Darwin's principle of natural selection and "the survival of the fittest" (Herbert Spencer's phrase which Darwin used as a metaphor in the fifth edition of his *On the Origin of the Species*). Earlier, Thomas R. Malthus, an Anglican cleric whose academic expertise was political economy and demography, published *The Principles of Population Growth*, to counter the prevailing utopian optimism at the time, particularly Jean-Jacques Rousseau who was influential among leaders in the Tory-dreaded ex-Colonial America.

Malthus' thesis was simple: population grows in geometric proportions but food production is, at best, mathematical, ergo we have to curb population because food supply is never ever going to be sufficient.

The good-hearted Anglican parson did appear pessimistic, and his thesis spawned all kinds of defensive and reactionary conclusions, including the "survival of the fittest" of Spencer and the "natural selection" of Darwin, to refer to a privileged race (in this case, Caucasian), and the inevitable competition for Earth's resources since there was not enough to go around. Looking after No. 1 was not too long ago our Wall Street mantra, and the practice of cutthroat competition has become a common business practice, not toward the improvement of production nor furthering the quality of goods, nor the effective delivery of needed services, but on who can cut corners most in order to gain more profit. Least effort for less cost has become the business credo.

We saw how this played out in the globalization of economics, the marginalization of colored people, the current exploitation of bonded servitude, and the inhumane and uncivil treatment of immigrants around the world. The equity distribution in the world today, a pro-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



found moral contradiction from where I sit, stands at 15 percent of wealth to 85 percent of population, and vice versa. It is worst in the United States, the alleged bastion of freedom, where the market ensures the equitable distribution of wealth. The opposite has transpired. Move to the CNMI in the last 20 years, particularly on the track record of the unlamented rapacity of the garment industry, and we can see the same understanding boldly writ on the background: There is not enough to go around, so "get going while the getting is got!"

Two Sundays ago in pulpits, a familiar story was read of a returning prodigal son to a forgiving and gracious father. Sermons are often focused on those two aspects of the parable. A third one is conveniently missed because it cuts against the grain of common economic philosophy, thanks to the tradition of Malthus. The father decided to celebrate the return of his younger son, and the older brother angrily pouted on the side, complaining that he was not even favored with a new coat even though he remained faithful and obedient at his father's side. The father's response was unequivocal, "All of what is mine is yours." There is enough for both.

Distributive justice remains the paramount proposal of our time. And in the quietude of our frenzied doing, as we look at the foreigners and locals alike in the abundance of our Sabalu market, might we not begin thinking that, perhaps, if we focus on distributing equitably what we've got, we might not appear with dripping greed in our teeth, and that Sabalu Gloria might actually take us to a new heaven and a new earth? OK. A new island will do.

Hugging your way to health

According to actual scientific research by actual scientists, basketball star Kevin Garnett of the Boston Celtics has been known to reach out and touch four other guys within 600 milliseconds of shooting a free throw.

This is three-fifths of a second, roughly the same amount of time that other actual scientists have discovered it takes the average person to translate a thought into speech. Some people do it in less time, but this is usually not a good idea.

Back to Garnett: He makes 81 percent of his free throws, so it's safe to assume he begins reaching out to touch people the millisecond the ball leaves his fingertips. He has very long arms, so he can easily use both hands to touch guys on both sides of the lane simultaneously.

But unless it's a crash-the-boards scenario with just split seconds left on the clock, at least one of the four other Celtics players on the court would have to be back on defense, meaning that at least one of the guys Garnett was touching was an opposing player or a referee. The man is a menace.

The actual scientific research, conducted by Michael W. Kraus of the University of California-Berkeley and his colleagues and quoted by Benedict Carey in the Feb. 23 edition of *The New York Times*, concludes that in the National Basketball Association, teams whose players touch each other most frequently enjoy greater success than less-touchy teams.

How did they amass this research? They taped a bunch of NBA games involving all the teams in the league and counted every touch, slap, butt-pat, back-pat, high-five, low-five, chest bump, hug and noogie. And people wonder why young Americans aren't pursuing careers in science.

The touchiest teams were the Celtics and the Los Angeles Lak-

ers, also two of the winningest teams. The least touchy were the mediocre-at-best Sacramento Kings and Charlotte Bobcats.

You're thinking, the Celtics have Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce and the Lakers have Kobe Bryant. The Kings have Spencer Hawes and the Bobcats just added Theo Ratliff. Maybe that has something to do with it.

But no, says Mr. Krause. Even allowing for talent differential, touchiness seems to be a success predictor, Mr. Kraus told *The Times*, though he admitted, "We still have to test this in a controlled laboratory environment."

The basketball studies were part of a larger article on the benefits of a touchy-feeling society: "A warm touch seems to see of the release of oxytocin, a hormone that helps create a sensation of trust, and to reduce the levels of the stress hormone cortisol," *The Times* reports.

Back in November, I wrote about the benefits of oxytocin, a hormone that can make grouchy people happy, greedy people empathetic and stressful people relaxed. I suggested spraying it around one of those tea party rallies to make people chill out.

Surprisingly, some readers were not amused, perhaps proving my point. But now it turns out, maybe all we need is to hug and high-five each other more often. I'm going to have some problems with that.

I'm not talking about hugging your kids, which is entirely appropriate, or women hugging women, which is apparently something they do, or even inter-gender hugs when it is mutually welcome. I'm talking about the man-hug.

Since five years ago, when I first warned about the about the creeping (and creepy) danger posed by the man-hug, the practice has become more widespread. Once limited to major emotional situations like warfare or Yogi Berra jumping into Don Larsen's arms after a perfect game, the man-hug now is everywhere.

Caucasus Russia's principal internal security threat, created a special North Caucasus Federal District, headed by a presidential representative, Alexander Khloponin, a former governor of Russia's Krasnoyarsk region. Khloponin is reputed to be a sound manager, but he has his work cut out for him.

Monday's subway bombings—which came just four months after the bombing and derailment of a luxury train traveling between Moscow and St. Petersburg that killed more than two dozen people—demonstrate clearly that the violence in the North Caucasus cannot be easily contained within that region.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin undoubtedly will call for harsh measures following Monday's bombings. But he also should use his considerable popularity to denounce intolerance and scapegoating, particularly of the nation's 20 million Muslims, who

By **KEVIN HARRIGAN**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Kevin Harrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Readers may write to him at: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or e-mail him at khorrigan@post-dispatch.com.

Hey, haven't seen you in a while! (Hug) Hey, good job on the lawn! (Hug) Hey, way to get that bunt down (Hug).

What's wrong with a handshake or the ol' punch in the shoulder? You can overdose on oxytocin. What are we, a nation of figure skaters?

Here's what's going to happen: Management experts are going to find out about this touchy-feeling research. They're going to decide they can either make employees happy by paying them better and improving work condition, or they can have hugging seminars.

Bosses will be encouraged to go through the office, slapping hands and hugging their employees, even troublemakers who don't want to be hugged, particularly by the boss, not that I have any particular boss in mind.

Republicans are going to propose reforming the American health care system by encouraging the Healthy Hug Act to encourage uninsured Americans to hug and high-five each other, unless of course, they are gay.

Not to be outdone, Democrats will seek to impose mandatory hugging and terrorist fist-bumping overseen by a cabinet-level Department of Holding and Urban Groping (HUG) with an annual appropriation of \$1.5 billion. Kevin Garnett will be the HUG secretary.

make up 15 percent of the population.

No government can reasonably be expected to tolerate terrorist attacks, and Russia's certainly will tighten security further. Good intelligence and anti-terrorism operations are part of the answer to what Russia faces in the North Caucasus. But they do not, in themselves, constitute sound policy, and the central government should avoid inflaming xenophobia and encouraging ultranationalist groups and ideologies.

Moscow also must find better ways to tackle the region's festering socioeconomic problems. And it must insist that local governments and federal forces act within the law.

Rajan Menon is a professor of international relations at Lehigh University. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

RUSSIA'S

From Page 10

ferred brutality at the hands of police and soldiers.

What has been the central government's response? Moscow has touted its "victory" in Chechnya and vowed to quash insurgents and terrorists elsewhere in the North Caucasus. But while Chechnya is calmer, the rest of the region has become more violent, and federal forces are now stretched over a wider area.






Russian leaders trumpet how they have plowed billions of dollars in economic aid into the area, but this largesse has subsidized economic mismanagement and corruption.

In January, President Dmitry Medvedev, who dubbed the North

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 80

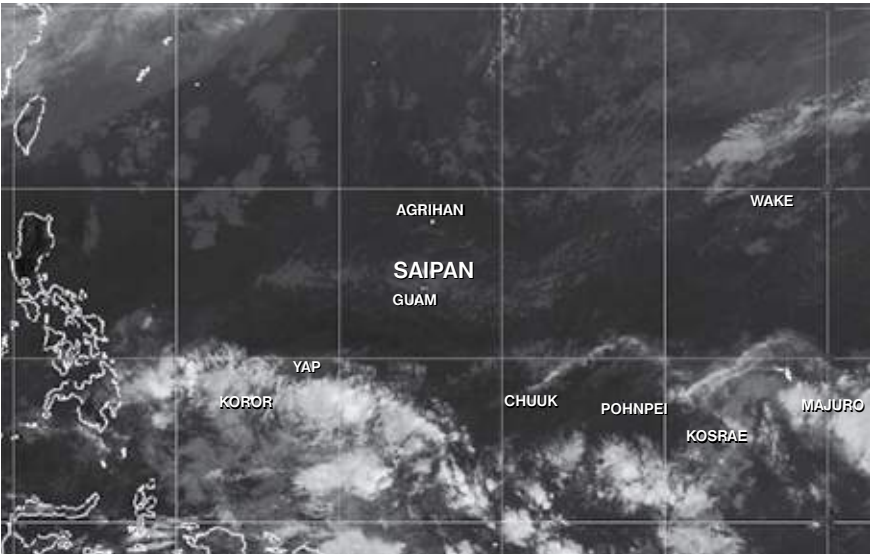
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 62
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 44
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 71
London	Rain	▲ 49 ▼ 39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 92 ▼ 81
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 58
Miami	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 65
New York	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 47
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 41
Paris	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 41
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 43
Rome	Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 48
Salem	Rain	▲ 48 ▼ 37
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 52 ▼ 47
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 38
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 44
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 55

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
9:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
5:02 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N175E to 19N163E to 13N151E then extends westward across Guam to 14N136E. Low cloudiness and scattered showers are found north of Wake Island along and up to 400 miles northwest of the shear line east of 155E further west. Scattered light showers are found across the Northern Marianas within 75 miles of a line from 15N136E to 15N148E. A broad weak circulation centered southwest of Koror near 6N133E is producing widespread cloudiness and showers within 100 miles of a line from 9N130E to 7N141E to 5N144E to 3N140E. This includes Palau but is just south of Yap. A weak surface trough south of Pohnpei extends from 3N154E to 1N160E. Scattered showers are found along the north side of the trough within 50 miles of a line from 4N154E to 3N158E to 1N162E. A surface trough extends from south of Kwajalein at 7N167E to EQ179E. Widespread cloudiness and showers are occurring from near Kwajalein across Majuro into Kiribati in the area bounded by 8N166E to 6N175E to 2N180 to EQ180 to 2N174E back to 8N166E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:35 PM	9:06 AM
Sunday	11:29 PM	10:00 AM
Monday		10:54 AM
Tuesday	12:20 AM	11:48 AM
Wednesday	1:06 AM	12:39 PM

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 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 30, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:00am 2:50am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09598 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) DL640 8:40am 11:25am 1, 3, 7	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN DL641 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 5:55am 8:35am Daily DL640/646 8:40am 1:55pm 1, 3, 7 via NGO DL297 3:35pm 6:15pm Daily DL289 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL290 10:00am 2:35pm Daily DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL287/641 6:35pm 1:40am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:10am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via Osaka Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via Osaka Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ604/701 2:20am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ608/705 3:20am 1:30am+1 1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS OZ9317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM C09603/893 3:15pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM C09603/933 3:15pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM OZ606/703 3:20pm 10:55pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:20pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ706/607 3:35am 2:10am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 1:10pm 1:40am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 3.5 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:55pm 2:20pm+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45pm 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ606/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 4, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/605 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55am 2:20am+1 Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services														
CATHOLIC														
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm														
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm														
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm														
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am														
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm														
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm														
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm														
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm														
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm														
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am														
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm														
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism														
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am														
PROTESTANT														
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm														
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm														
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm														
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm														
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Lallau, Call 235-0545 for directions														
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm														
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)														
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto														
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)														
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)														
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday														
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm														
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)														
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm														
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm														
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620														
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm														
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)														
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm														
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm														
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm														
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship
	9am	Sunday school												
	10am	Regular worship												
	6pm	worship												
Wednesday	7pm	worship												
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism														
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,						
7am-9am	English service													
7am-9am	Sunday school													
10am-12noon	English service,													
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S														



APRIL 3, 2000

Meeting with Continental spurs optimism for more flights
House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has expressed confidence over improved flight service by Continental Micronesia between the Northern Marianas and key Asian cities in light of increasing number of visitors to the island. Buoyed by the outcome of a recent meeting with the airline’s representative, he also said a better relationship and more cooperative efforts are in the offing with the Guam-based carrier. “We have discussed issues regarding flight service and we believe that Continental will be receptive and supportive of... reestablishing non-stop flights from Asia to the Commonwealth as well as increased frequency between Guam and Saipan,” the Speaker told reporters in an interview.

Senate tackles FY 2001 budget today
Uncertain as how the proposed FY 2000 budget will fare in the Senate, the Fiscal Affairs Committee has scheduled a meeting tomorrow to discuss whether to approve the package passed by the lower house. Committee chair Sen. Edward U. Maratita said they are hopeful that they could identify extra revenues to accommodate the needs of other departments and agencies that did not receive any increase from the budget proposal drafted by the House. But, at the same time, he voiced out his disagreement over the cuts made by their counterpart, the House Ways and Means Committee, on the appropriation set aside for the Rota and Tinian municipalities.

APRIL 3, 2001

Tobacco fund to finance GHLI transfer
Initial funding capital of \$1 million from the Tobacco Master Settlement Fund and health premium will be used to finance operations of the proposed CNMI Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund Program. The proposed legislative measure is in response to earlier recommendations made by the Group Health Life Insurance Program to study possible transfer of GHLI Trust Fund to the purview of the Office of the Governor. The bill also tasked the Department of Finance to identify funds from any source including the Tobacco Master Settlement Fund, health premium, life insurance administrative cost revenues, or personnel lapse funds in any executive department in order to establish a claims of disbursement trust account for the health insurance program. It will be initially funded with \$450,000 in reserve account and \$500,000 in revolving account to expedite processing of claims.

Borja: Lift ban on entry of tourists from China
The existing ban on the entry of Chinese tourists to the Commonwealth should be lifted to further boost the revenue-generating capability of the islands’ travel industry. Tinian Mayor Francisco Borja urged the Legislature and Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to establish a procedure acceptable to the Department of Labor and Immigration, in processing entry of Chinese visitors to enhance economic potentials of the CNMI. Mr. Borja also recommended the creation of a task force composed of representatives from the Marianas Visitors Authority, DOLI, Customs Divisions, the Attorney General’s Office, the Legislature and the Office of the Mayor to address the concerns previously raised in relation to the entry of Chinese visitors.

APRIL 3, 2002

US envoys pledge to help promote NMI
A senior lawmaker’s efforts to promote the Commonwealth as a tourism and investment destination has borne fruit, after securing the commitment of American embassies in Japan and South Korea in helping the CNMI promote itself in these countries. In letters addressed to Rep. William S. Torres, U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo Howard H. Baker Jr. and U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Thomas C. Hubbard both pledged to use the ample resources of their respective embassies in promoting the CNMI as part of tourism and investment efforts for the United States. In his letter to Torres, Baker said he has already instructed the embassy’s Commercial Section-which has an active tourism promotion program-to work with the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote increased Japanese travel to the Commonwealth.

Business

Job creation expected in March as recovery builds

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy is likely to have added jobs last month for only the second time since the recession began 27 months ago.

That, economists say, would mark a significant turning point in the recovery. It would mean the worst is over and that more job creation could be on the way in the months ahead. But, it does not mean enough new jobs are being created to bring down the unemployment rate.

The Labor Department’s March unemployment report is released at 8:30 a.m. EDT Friday.

Economists are forecasting that 190,000 jobs were created last month—the most in the past three years. The unemployment rate is forecast to stay at 9.7 percent for the third straight month, according to economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

As many as 100,000 of the job gains could reflect temporary hiring for the U.S. Census. Roughly 50,000 more might simply be a rebound from February, when massive snowstorms on the East Coast kept some workers off company payrolls.

That would leave a respectable 40,000 new jobs created by private employers. Much of the gains are likely to come from the health care and temporary help industries.

“It would be a signal that business confidence is gradually improving to the point that they’re ready to hire,” said Brian Bethune, chief U.S. financial economist at IHS Global Insight.

More jobs would enable a bump in consumer spending, which accounts for roughly 70 percent of the economy. But without significant wage gains—incomes have been sluggish in the past year—growth will be restrained.

To be sure, healing in the job market is likely to be slow. Many economists expect only modest job gains this year that won’t quickly reduce the unemployment rate. Both the Federal Reserve and the Obama administration expect unemployment will be well above 9 percent by the end of this year.

The factory sector is growing at a healthy clip. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said its gauge of industrial company activity rose to 59.6 in March, the fastest growth since July 2004. A level above 50 indicates growth. Manufacturing data released from China, Britain and the 16 countries using the euro also showed a surge in activity in March.

Manufacturers are benefiting from a robust recovery in Asia and parts of Latin America and increased business investment in the United States.

Job creation is likely to remain weak for years to come, in part because U.S. factories have become more efficient, producing more goods with fewer workers. On top of that, the sector’s contribution to the overall economy has been shrinking for decades due to competition from China and other countries where factory workers are paid much less.

Another reason the job-growth engine is stuck a low gear is that the building sector remains extremely weak in the aftermath of the housing bust.

Construction spending fell sharply in February to its lowest level in eight years, the Commerce Department said Thursday. Spending fell particularly hard in commercial ventures, such as hotels and office buildings.

Asian markets rise amid signs US poised for growth

SINGAPORE (AP)—Asian stock markets rose slightly Friday after expanding U.S. manufacturing suggested the world’s biggest economy is poised for solid growth this year.

Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average rose 45.85 points, or 0.4 percent, to 11,290.25. South Korea’s Kospi was up 0.1 percent at 1,720.14 and China’s Shanghai index rose 0.1 percent.

In New York overnight, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 70.44, or 0.7 percent, to 10,927.07, its highest level since September 2008.

Investors were cheered Thursday by a private trade group report showing U.S. manufacturing grew in March at its strongest pace in five and a half years, more than analysts had expected.

The expansion of industrial production points to annualized gross domestic product growth of more than 5 percent, Capital Economics said in a report.

Investors will be eyeing the release of the U.S. jobs report for March later on Friday.

Trading volume in Asia was light as markets were closed for the Good Friday holiday in India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Markets in the U.S. and global oil trading also are closed Friday.

In currencies, the dollar slipped to 93.74 yen on Friday from 93.84 yen on Thursday. The euro was at \$1.3569 from \$1.3581.

Nation

Official says new checks set for travelers to US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Travelers from 14 countries that have been home to terrorists will no longer automatically face extra screening before they fly to the U.S.

Beginning this month, anyone traveling to the U.S. will instead be screened based on specific information about potential terrorist threats, a senior Obama administration official said. A person would be stopped if he or she matches a description, even if officials do not have a suspect's name, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive security issues.

For example, if the U.S. has intelligence about a Nigerian man between the ages of 22 and 32 whom officials believe is a threat or a known terrorist, under the new policy all Nigerian men within that

age range will receive extra screening before they are allowed to fly to the U.S. If intelligence later shows that the suspect is not a terrorist, travelers will not be screened against that description.

The new procedures replace those that went into effect after the attempted bombing of a jetliner en route to Detroit on Christmas Day. Those rules required extra screening, such as full-body pat-downs, for everyone from, or traveling through, any of these 14 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The new terror-screening strategy, to be announced Friday, is a result of a review ordered by President Barack Obama.

The intelligence-based targeting will

be in addition to screening names on terror watch lists. The government's "no fly" list of suspected terrorists, who are banned from flights to, or within, U.S. territory, has about 6,000 names.

A Nigerian man, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, has been charged with boarding a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day with a bomb hidden in his underwear. One of the reasons the alleged bomber was able to board the flight in Amsterdam was that his name was not on a U.S. terror watch list. However, officials failed to even share a description of the suspected terrorist.

The new policy should significantly decrease the number of innocent travelers from the 14 countries who have been inconvenienced by the extra screening, the official said.



President Barack Obama waves from Air Force One upon his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Thursday, April 1, 2010. AP

Abortion doctor's killer gets forum, life sentence

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Defiant in court, a man who murdered one of the few U.S. doctors who performed late-term abortions used his sentencing hearing to do what the judge wouldn't let him do during his trial—justify his crime by describing abortion in gritty detail.

Scott Roeder was sentenced Thursday to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 50 years, the harshest sentence possible under Kansas law for gunning down Dr. George Tiller in the foyer of the Wichita physician's church last May.

"I stopped him so he could not dismember another innocent baby," Roeder said. "Wichita is a far safer place for unborn babies without George Tiller."

Roeder, 52, also was sentenced to an additional year in prison on each of two counts of aggravated assault for threatening two church ushers as he fled. With time off for good behavior, Roeder won't be eligible for parole for



Scott Roeder sits in a Sedgwick County District courtroom in Wichita, Kan., Thursday, April 1, 2010 for his sentencing for the murder of abortion doctor George Tiller. Roeder was convicted last January for the crime and is facing a life sentence. AP

51 years and eight months.

An attorney for Tiller, speaking in court as a friend of the slain doctor, said the toughest sentence would dis-

courage other anti-abortion zealots from attacking doctors. Tiller's widow, Jeanne, cried as the sentence for murder was announced.

Medical waste shipments turn up heads, torsos

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—The first discovery was gruesome enough: a head and torso tucked inside a red biohazard tub that arrived at a Kansas company. Then it got worse.

Six more heads and torsos showed up in the next week after someone apparently dismembered the bodies with a chain saw or another cutting device, police said.

Authorities are investigating a New Mexico company that was supposed to have donated the organs in the bodies to science and had the remains cremated. The owner of the Albuquerque company, Paul Montano, was arrested Thursday.

One man whose father's head and torso showed up in Kansas in the shipment said the family received ashes of what they thought was their 83-year-

old dad after he died of a stroke.

Now they are in shock at the thought that the ashes they scattered in a heartfelt remembrance last year may not have been their father—or at least not all of him.

"To not give you everything and to have the head shipped some place else, it's really disturbing," said Chuck Hines, of Bosque Farms, N.M.

Obama urges patience as health care law kicks in

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Facing a public still wary of his massive health care overhaul, President Barack Obama on Thursday urged Americans not to judge the nearly \$1 trillion legislation he signed into law last week until the reforms take hold.

During an enthusiastic, campaign-style appearance in Maine's largest city, Obama mocked the pundits and pollsters who say he isn't getting a boost from his yearlong campaign to pass the sweeping reform.

"Every single day since I signed the reform law, there's been another poll or headline that said, 'Nation still divided on health care reform. Polls haven't changed yet.' Well, yes. It just happened last week," Obama said to laughter.

He continued: "Can you imagine if some of these reporters were working on a farm and you planted some seeds, and they came out the next day and they looked and—'Nothing's happened. There's no crop. We're going to starve. Oh, no! It's a disaster!' It's been a week, folks. So, before we find out if people like health care reform, we should wait to see what happens when we actually put it into place. Just a thought." The president's overhaul extends health coverage to 32 million people who are uninsured and will

shape how almost every American receives and pays for medical treatment. Some aspects of the plan go into effect this year, but the president himself has said it could take four years for the full plan to take hold.

Obama's trip to Portland took him to the home state of two moderate Republican senators, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, whose votes for the legislation the president ardently sought but ultimately could not win. The White House said both senators were invited to attend the event, but neither did.

At a later stop in Boston, Obama celebrated the health care win at a Democratic fundraiser.

He reminded them of the doomsday predictions for health reform about two months ago, when Republican Scott Brown won the Senate seat long held by the late Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts. And he drew his laughs with a reference to a slip by Vice President Joe Biden, who had whispered into an open microphone during the overhaul bill signing that it was a "big (expletive) deal."

"As Joe Biden said, who has a way with words, 'This ...'" Obama started before the audience cheered. "What? He said it's a big deal."

ACROSS THE NATION

2 dead, 1 injured in Kansas industrial accident

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP)—An industrial accident at a Kansas fertilizer plant has left two workers dead and another injured. The incident occurred around 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the MagnaGro International plant in Lawrence. Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Chief Mark Bradford says a worker fell into a tank of a nonhazardous substance he wouldn't identify. Authorities were still trying to determine how the second person died in the incident. A Lawrence Memorial Hospital spokeswoman says another worker was treated and released. An answering machine at a number listed for MagnaGro said the plant was closed Friday. But owner

Raymond Sawyer told the Lawrence Journal-World that he was in South Dakota and unaware of the accident.

Lawrence is about 50 miles west of Kansas City, Mo.

FAA: Plane with open door crashes at Ohio airport

MIAMISBURG, Ohio (AP)—Air safety authorities say a single-engine plane flying with an open door has crashed in Ohio, killing two people. Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham (EYE'-shum) Cory says the private plane left Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport on Thursday afternoon and was headed for the DuPage Airport in suburban

Chicago when the pilot reported a cargo door was open. She says the plane tried returning to the airport just south of Dayton but crashed in a field near a runway. The airport is in Miamisburg, part of the Dayton metro area. It primarily serves corporate and personal aircraft. State Highway Patrol Trooper Brandon Williams says the names of the victims haven't been confirmed and the Warren County coroner hopes to complete the identification process Friday.

Man sues, claims he fell after stepping in feces

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—A Poquoson man who said he fell after stepping in dog feces at a PetSmart store has filed a \$1 million negligence lawsuit

against the company. Robert Hol-loway alleges in his lawsuit in U.S. District Court that he badly injured his back, struck his head and knocked out four teeth when he slipped in January 2009 at a Newport News PetSmart. He alleges that PetSmart and its manager should have protected him from a hazardous condition created when they allowed animals to defecate on the floor. In court documents, Phoenix-based PetSmart denied the negligence allegations.

Authorities expand search for missing Colo. girl

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—Four days after a 12-year-old northern Colorado

girl disappeared after leaving home to walk to a friend's birthday party, authorities expanded their search Thursday to include places she was known to frequent, including a music store, library and shopping mall. "We're hoping against hope that she's out there, she's safe and she is just a runaway," said Sgt. Joe Tymkovich of the police department in Greeley, about 60 miles north of Denver. "But we have to try to figure all the possible propensities of things that could happen and pursue those leads as well." Kayleah (Kay LEE uh) Wilson was last seen Sunday afternoon, when she left her Greeley home to go to a birthday party just across a busy highway from her apartment building.

Asia

From 1 to 1.2B, India counting and ID'ing citizens

NEW DELHI (AP)—India began a yearlong census of its billion-plus population in which it plans to photograph and fingerprint every citizen over the age of 15 to create a national database and then issue its first national identity cards.

About 2.5 million census-takers began traveling across more than 630,000 villages and 5,000 cities Thursday in an effort to visit every structure serving as a home, from tin shanties to skyscrapers, in what the government calls the world's largest administrative exercise.

For the first time, they will note the availability of toilets,

drinking water and electricity, and the type of building materials to create a comprehensive picture of housing in India. They will also take fingerprints and photographs of each person and collect information on Internet, mobile phone and bank account usage.

The census-takers—mostly local government officials or schoolteachers—also plan to include millions of homeless people who sleep on railway platforms, under bridges and in parks.

So far, India has not had a system of national identity cards. The collection of fingerprints and photographs will be linked

with another massive exercise launched last year to assign every Indian an identity number.

"It is for the first time in human history that an attempt is being made to identify, count, enumerate and record and eventually issue an identity card to 1.2 billion people," Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said.

The total cost will reach 57 billion rupees (\$1.2 billion), the government said.

Most Indians welcome the ID cards, saying they will reduce the need for multiple identification papers and make it easier to receive government benefits and services.

Toll rises to 19 in blast at mine in central China

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll from an explosion at a mine in central China has risen to 19 people, with 24 still trapped underground, the government said Friday, in the second major mine disaster in the country this week.

Rescue attempts were continuing for 153 workers who've been trapped five days by flooding in a mine in northern Shanxi province. There have been no signs of life, but officials say they have not given up hope of finding survivors.

A gas leak caused the blast in the most recent mine accident, according to a report on the Web

site for Luoyang city in China's central province of Henan. It said 24 miners were believed to be trapped.

The official Xinhua News Agency said 20 workers escaped after blast Wednesday night and another 31 were rescued.

The city government report said 15 of the 19 dead were miners working underground at the time of the explosion and four people died above ground. It did not say if they were workers or passers-by.

Calls to the Luoyang city government office ran unanswered on Friday.

Xinhua said the mine boss, Wang Guozheng, has disappeared and authorities have ordered that his assets be frozen. Four county officials have been fired over the accident, but it did not say what they may have done wrong.

Blasts and flooding are common in Chinese mines. The flood at the Wangjialing mine in Shanxi province started when workers digging tunnels broke through into an old shaft filled with water, a government safety body has said. It accused mine officials of ignoring safety rules and danger warnings in a rush to open the mine.

Afghan president blames foreigners for vote fraud

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai lashed out at the U.N. and international community Thursday, accusing them of interfering in last year's fraud-tarnished presidential election and seeking to weaken his authority after parliament rejected his bid to expand his control over the country's electoral institutions.

Karzai did not specifically

mention the United States, but his harsh words—and his practice of blaming foreigners for the nation's problems—reflect his increasingly difficult relations with Washington and its international allies.

President Barack Obama paid an unannounced visit here Sunday in hopes of setting a new tone in dealings with the Afghan leader, as the U.S.-led

coalition prepares for a showdown with the Taliban this summer in its southern stronghold of Kandahar—Karzai's home province.

The Obama administration has maintained a reliable Afghan political partner is critical to turning back the Taliban, and State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley rejected any attempt to undermine Karzai.

who reject Western concepts, or are suspicious of them.

Pakistani troops kill 28 militants in northwest

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani troops stormed militant positions and helicopters destroyed vehicles carrying insurgents near the Afghan border Thursday, killing 28 suspected militants and forcing thousands of civilians to flee, officials said. The offensive in the Orakzai tribal region is aimed at flushing out Pakistani Taliban insurgents who had fled an army onslaught further south. Government official Sami Ullah said at least 18 militants died in clashes with troops in Orakzai. As a group of insurgents fled to the neighboring Kurram region, helicopters hit three vehicles, killing 10 more militants and wounding some others, local

military commander Lt. Col. Akbar Butt said.

DEA says Afghan opium seizures soar in 2009

KABUL (AP)—Opium seizures in Afghanistan soared 924 percent last year because of better cooperation between Afghan and international forces, the top U.S. drug enforcement official said Thursday. The Taliban largely funds its insurgency by profits from the opium trade, making it a growing target of U.S. and Afghan anti-insurgency operations. Afghanistan produces the raw opium used to make 90 percent of the world's heroin. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration now has 96 agents in the country who joined with Afghan counterparts and NATO forces in more than 80 combined operations last year, acting DEA administrator Michelle Leonhart said at a news conference in Kabul.

World

Cardinals defend pope on church sex abuse scandal

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Cardinals across Europe used their Holy Thursday sermons to defend Pope Benedict XVI from accusations he played a role in covering up sex abuse scandals, and an increasingly angry Vatican sought to deflect any criticism in the Western media.

The relationship between the church and the media has become increasingly bitter as the scandal buffeting the 1 billion-member church has touched the pontiff himself. On Wednesday, the church singled out The New York Times for criticism in an unusually harsh attack.

Western news organizations, including The Associated Press, have reported extensively on the burgeoning scandal, and new details have emerged on an almost daily basis.

On Holy Thursday, Benedict first celebrated a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica dedicated to the union between the pope and the world's priests. In the late afternoon, he washed the feet of 12 priests in a ceremony symbolizing humility and commemorating Christ's Last Supper with his 12 apostles on the evening before his Good Friday crucifixion.

Although there were expect-



Pope Benedict XVI washes the foot of an unidentified layman in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, Thursday, April 1, 2010.

tations by some that the pope would address the crisis, Benedict made no reference to the scandal at either ceremony.

Venice's Cardinal Angelo Scola expressed solidarity with

Benedict in his Holy Thursday homily in the lagoon city, describing him as a victim of "deceitful accusations." He praised the pope as seeking to remove all "dirt" from the priesthood.

US Navy frigate captures 5 pirates near Seychelles

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The small gang of Somali pirates fired on an approaching ship, hoping their midnight attack would bring them millions in ransom. The ragtag bandits, though, had taken on far more than they could handle: a U.S. warship.

The USS Nicholas, a guided missile frigate, was tracking the pirates when they opened fire early Thursday in Indian Ocean waters, the U.S. military said. The Nicholas,

which saw combat in the first Gulf War, returned fire and disabled the skiff.

Navy personnel later boarded and detained three suspects. The Americans found two more bandits on a nearby mothership and later sank the skiff.

It was not the first attack against a Navy ship, but it underscored the fact that most pirates aren't terribly sophisticated, said Roger Middleton, a piracy expert at the British think tank Chatham House.

"If you think of the kind of young men who are doing this, they go out into the middle of the ocean in a tiny boat. They might not always make rational decisions, and they often attack things that are bigger than they should (attack)," said Middleton.

"It's also quite possible that they don't have a full understanding of the targets they are attacking. Perhaps they just see a big ship they think is a worth a lot of money," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN head tours troubled ex-Soviet Central Asia

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday began a trip through the countries of former Soviet Central Asia, a region troubled by poverty, oppression and fears of renewed Islamic insurgency. Ban's blitz through five countries appears unlikely to produce any breakthroughs, but it will draw attention to a region often obscured by the shadows of its giant neighbors Russia and China and by the war raging in Afghanistan, just across the borders. Beleaguered human rights activists in the region are encouraged by the attention, even though Ban has no announced plans to meet with their groups. His statements after meetings with each of the region's presidents are likely to be carefully watched for indications of how much pressure he puts on leaders

WORLD BRIEFS

Somali army trains to fight al-Qaida-linked rebels

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somali army recruits are using sticks instead of guns as they train for combat against battle-hardened Islamist rebels. With the army lacking equipment and training, Somalia's prime minister said an offensive the government has threatened to launch for months will be gradual instead of a blitzkrieg. The offensive, which has been repeatedly delayed for months, would be the government's biggest attempt to restore control over an anarchic nation where an Islamist insurgency has taken root and whose coastline is dotted with pirate lairs. Hundreds of extremist foreign fighters have flocked to this African country, which experts fear could become a launching pad

for attacks on the West.

Rocket blasts off with 2 Russians, 1 American

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP)—A Russian rocket blasted off from a space center in southern Kazakhstan into brilliant blue skies Friday, transporting a NASA astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts to the International Space Station. The Soyuz craft carrying California native Tracy Caldwell Dyson and Russians Alexander Skvortsov and Mikhail Kornienko rose from the Baikonur cosmodrome on schedule. Powerful booster rockets shattered the stillness of the immense and arid Kazakh steppe, propelling the Soyuz heavenward atop an iridescent flow of flames against the clear sky. Spectators gazed as the craft

disappeared into a faint dot.

Colombian rebels turn over remains of captive

BOGOTA (AP)—Colombia's largest rebel group on Thursday turned over the remains of a police officer who died while being held captive—the guerrillas' latest gesture aimed at prodding the government into negotiating a prisoner exchange. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or the FARC, gave a humanitarian mission led by Sen. Piedad Cordoba the coordinates of the spot for the handover of the remains of police Maj. Julian Guevara. A Super Cougar helicopter flown by a Brazilian crew ferried the mission into the Colombian jungle and returned them along with Guevara's remains to the southeastern city of Villavicencio.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 3, 2010

The Filipino history that's overseas

By JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt of a speech delivered at the Annual Conference of the Philippine Historical Association, on Sept. 18, 2009, at the National Museum, Manila.

Filipino overseas migration is as old as the numerous historical accounts of the Filipino nation. The history of the Filipino people suggests that migration is a natural tendency of the Filipino race (Vilardo Cabuag, 2003).

It was documented that in 1587, Filipinos went to North America and arrived in Morro Bay, California, USA on board the galleon ship *Nuestra Señora de Esperanza*. They were even called "Luzonians," the "Luzones Indios," or the Manila Men. There were even Filipino permanent settlers in the United States as early as 1763 when some Filipinos were spotted near Barataria Bay in Southern Louisiana (Floro Mercene, 2007).

Filipinos are currently the leading group of seafarers in the world. The historical trace to such can be linked to the 1700s, when Filipinos were in

demand as crew members of ships owned by Western traders and seafarers. In 1720, Pam-panga's Gaspar Molina oversaw the construction of the ship *El Triunfo de la Cruz* in California (Floro Mercene, 2007; Villy Cabuag, 2003).

Yet since 1668, natives from the Philippines have been going to the Mariana Islands.

In Augusto de Viana's book *In the Far Islands*, he wrote that the history and culture of both the Philippines and the Mariana Islands are closely linked. Mariana Islands even became a province of the Philippines, and then ecclesiastically part of the Diocese of Cebu (Augusto de Viana, 2004).

Filipinos played a role in the Christianization and colonization of the Mariana Islands, even as Filipinos became immigrants during the 18th century and deportees during the 19th century.

What comes as a thrill to read is the work of Sydney, Australia-based Filipino historian Renato Perdon, titled *Brown Americans of Asia*.

Filipinos, Perdon wrote, were recorded to be in Australia when a certain Maximo Gomez was executed on 21 June 1880 by Queensland prison authorities. He was executed for murdering Wil-



In this file Life photo, a Filipino worker tends to the irrigation of a sugar cane plantation in Hawaii. In 1906, 15 Ilocano sugar workers were recruited by the Hawai'i Sugar Planters Association to go to Hawai'i, starting the historical links between Ilocos Norte and the American island-state.

liam Clarke of Possession Island in Australia's Torres Strait, that sprang from a drinking quarrel.

But it is because of diving,

and of divers, that the first Filipinos went to Australia.

As early as 1874, Filipinos and other Pacific Island nation-

als were recruited as divers for Sydney operators to collect pearl shells. An island called Thursday Island even had records that there were 147 Filipinos in the Island in 1885. In Australia's pearl industry (Renato Perdon, 1998), Filipinos were crew members, divers, supervisors and employers of fishing fleets.

The fascinating story did not end there.

Perdon writes: "It was only in 1892 that Filipino women and children started to appear in the annual population statistics of Thursday Island. Eight Filipino women and 30 children were known living on the island that year."

While now a sixth of Filipinos' overseas migration is female, I think the [Filipino women] on Thursday Island show the first facets of the feminization of Filipinos' overseas migration.

As early as that time, Filipino divers in Australia were considered "the most skilful of all divers ... and exceedingly careful" (Renato Perdon, 1998)—similar to how foreigners in host countries think of Filipino workers.

Perhaps the most popular overseas migration story during the 19th century was the overseas journeys of Dr. Jose Rizal. Looking at Eufonio Alip's 1961

book *I Traced Rizal's Footsteps in Foreign Lands*, Rizal went to Spain, France, Greece, Austria, Italy, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Hong Kong.

Dr. Trinidad Parde de Tavvera wrote in 1918 in a material titled *The Character of Rizal* on why he thinks the national hero went to Europe:

"Rizal desired to go to Europe in order to educate himself, impelled by his desire to learn, to perfect himself, to become more useful to his people. He was not moved by the wish to have a good time and enjoy life" (Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, in Esteban de Ocampo, 1956: page 36).

But when it comes to documenting the history of Filipinos' overseas migration, the United States is the most documented.

Take note of the year 1906, when 15 Ilocano sugar workers were recruited by the Hawai'i Sugar Planters Association to go to Hawai'i—thus starting the historical links between Ilocos Norte and the American island-state.

Given the works of de Viana (for the Marianas Islands) and of Perdon (for Australia), the emigration of these Ilocano sugar workers to Hawai'i is perhaps not the first recorded overseas migration by Filipinos in the 20th century.

SINGAPORE—Construction workers from Bangladesh, hotel staff from the Philippines, waitresses from China, shipyard welders from Myanmar, technology professionals from India—Singapore has them all.

For years the rich but work-starved city-state, built by mainly Chinese immigrants, had rolled out the welcome mat for foreigners, whose numbers rose drastically during the economic boom from 2004-2007.

But with one in three of the five million people living on the tiny island now a foreigner and citizens complaining about competition for jobs, housing, and medical care, the government is taking a fresh look at its open-door policy.

With the grumbling getting louder and general elections expected to be called before they are due in 2012, the government has unveiled measures to reduce reliance on foreigners and assure citizens they remain the priority.

"There are social and physical limits to how many more we can absorb," Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam told parliament in February.

He said the government will make it costlier for companies

to hire foreigners by raising the levies they must pay for every non-Singaporean or non-resident they hire.

The government also earmarked 5.5 billion Singapore dollars (3.9 billion US) over the next five years to upgrade Singaporean workers' skills to boost their productivity, make them more competitive, and raise incomes.

It imposed measures to cool

down rising home prices, also blamed on foreigners buying into the property market, and pledged it will further tighten the process of accepting permanent residents and new citizens.

Of Singapore's population of nearly five million last year, 533,200 were permanent residents and 1.25 million were foreigners on employment passes, along with their families, official statistics show.

"I think it is shaping up to be one of the hottest issues in Singapore today," political commenta-

tor Seah Chiang Nee told AFP.

Economist Song Seng Wun of CIMB-GK Research said that apart from helping local companies rise up the value chain, the new measures will also address potential election issues.

Singapore's last elections, held in 2006, saw the ruling People's Action Party returned to power for six years, continuing its uninterrupted rule over the island since 1959.

"The government has to be seen doing something in areas that are potential flashpoints," Song said.

Disenchantment over foreign workers gained momentum during a severe economic slump that began in the third quarter of 2008, when trade-reliant Singapore became the first Asian economy to slip into recession.

Drastic job and salary cuts were implemented, affecting many white-collar workers.

In coffee shops, Internet forums, letters to newspapers,

and sessions with members of parliament, citizens became more vocal about the rapidly growing numbers of foreigners in their ranks.

The most common complaint is that Singaporeans are losing jobs to foreigners who are willing to accept much lower salaries.

"Foreigners are a damn pain in the butt. I seriously wonder if they are here to work or just snatch jobs from our locals,"

said one posting on the popular online forum sammyboy.com.

"The country is fast becoming an unfamiliar place to many Singaporeans. The sense of national pride is disappearing by the day," said a posting by Nur Muhammad on The Online Citizen.

Seah, who runs the political website www.littlespeck.com, said much of the resentment comes from Singaporeans who have to compete directly with foreign engineers, accountants, hotel managers, and IT professionals.

"Most Singaporeans do not feel angry against low-skilled foreign workers... It is more aimed at those who come in as white-collar workers and get the jobs that Singaporeans can do," he said.

Citizens have also complained about having to share space in crowded trains with a large number of foreigners, or compete with them for places in government schools and public housing.

A campaign in the 1970s for families to have only two children was so effective that the country is now well below the 60,000 babies needed per year just to naturally replace the resident population.

Efforts to reverse the trend have failed as increasingly affluent couples marry at a later age and opt for just one child or none at all.

Officials, economists, and business executives admit that with Singaporeans procreating less, the country will need foreign workers in the long term, while making sure citizens' interests are addressed.

Singapore's founding leader Lee Kuan Yew, who advises the cabinet of his son Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, said in January that "we've grown in the last five years by just importing labor."

"Now, the people feel uncomfortable, there are too many foreigners," Lee said.

"The answer is simple: We check the flow of foreigners, raise your productivity, do the job better, so that instead of two workers, eventually you'll do it with one worker, like the Japanese do."

Door narrows for foreign workers in Singapore

By MARTIN ABBUGAGIO
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Arroyo party breaking up; First Gentleman blamed

By TJ BURGONIO, AQUILES ZONIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INQUIRER MINDANAO

MANILA, Philippines—Reports that First Gentleman Jose Miguel “Mike” Arroyo is backing another presidential candidate forced Gilbert Teodoro Jr. to quit as chair of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD, party mates said Wednesday.

The administration party teetered on disintegration after Lakas president Sarangani Gov. Miguel “Migz” Dominguez and party secretary general Francis Manglapus followed

Teodoro’s lead and quit their posts Wednesday.

“It’s true. The First Gentleman and his allies are supporting Manny Villar. That may have triggered Teodoro’s resignation,” said a Lakas senatorial candidate, who asked not to be named.

Even before the start of the national campaign on Feb. 9, it was an “open secret” among his party mates that Mike Arroyo was bankrolling the campaign of the Nacionalista Party presidential candidate, the administration senatorial candidate said.

“And he (Teodoro) doesn’t believe that GMA (President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) doesn’t know about this,” he added.

Teodoro quit as party chair Tuesday purportedly to focus on his campaign, and to allow the party to tap a full-time chair who could respond to the needs of local officials.

Because of reports that Mike Arroyo is backing Villar, the NP standard-bearer’s allies in Lakas-Kampi-CMD, especially the original members of Kampi, have started to defect to Villar’s

camp. The most recent among them was Cebu Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, according to the Lakas senatorial candidate.

A number of Lakas stalwarts in Mindanao have also declared their support for Villar—among them Davao del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas, who also defected to the NP; Compostela Valley Gov. Arturo Uy, the Lakas chair in the province; and Bukidnon Gov. Jose Zubiri.

Luis “Chavit” Singson, presidential assistant on national security, also recently announced his resignation as Lakas coordinator in Ilocos and declared himself an independent candidate for governor of Ilocos Sur. Later he said he was backing Villar.

He said he had to address his differences with the Lakas standard-bearer. “When Gibo was secretary of defense, he did not give me an appointment. Despite my many attempts for us to meet, he did not give me time,” Singson said.

More than halfway through the campaign, the former defense secretary trails Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, Villar and deposed President Joseph Estrada in surveys, stuck at 6 percent.

Gossip

The opposition has claimed that Villar who is battling Aquino for No. 1 in the polls was Ms Arroyo’s “secret candidate,” an allegation dismissed by presidential spokespersons as “black propaganda.”

“That’s absolutely, completely false. That’s gossip. As far

as I know, they’re supporting Gibo,” Mike Arroyo’s lawyer Ruy Rondain said.

But a second source confirmed that Teodoro’s resignation was prompted by the Arroyos’ support for Villar.

Mike’s call to Garcias

A party official, who requested anonymity, said Teodoro uncovered the shift of support when members of the Garcia family of Cebu decided to jump ship and support Villar.

When the support of the Garcias for Villar became public, Teodoro went to Cebu and confronted Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia, the source said.

Only the governor has remained in the Teodoro camp among the Garcias.

“Gibo was so furious when he learned of the Garcias’ support of Villar. So he went to Cebu to talk with Gwen. There, he was informed about what really took place,” the source said.

He said “Gwen told Gibo during their one-on-one talk that the First Gentleman had called them up, the reason why other members of the Garcia clan switched support to Villar.”

Villar’s denial

As expected, Villar denied that he was the “secret” candidate of Malacañang and that he was enjoying financial support from the Arroyos.

“I did not ask [for money] from Malacañang and I don’t wish to receive any,” Villar said in a statement quoting what he said in a press conference.

He maintained that he was not an administration accomplice, noting that as then chair of the Senate committee on public order, he headed the probe of “jueteng,” an illegal numbers game, that allegedly involved Ms Arroyo and some members of her family.

He also pointed out that NP stalwarts Gilbert Remulla and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano led the congressional inquiries into the “Hello Garci” and ZTE-NBN scandals.

Since his ouster from the Senate presidency, Villar said he had not talked to either Ms Arroyo or her husband.

Lack of funds

Teodoro’s decision to quit and run his own campaign was proof of the party’s lack of funds, according to Mayor Ramon Guico of Binalonan, Pangasinan.

“That shows that the party has no money,” said Guico, also a Lakas senatorial candidate.

“We’re aware that local candidates are badgering him (Teodoro) for funds. But what if the party doesn’t give him any funds? What can he do? How can the machinery campaign for him if there are no funds?” said Guico.

Guico, president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, said he received a barrage of text messages from mayors Wednesday, asking whether the party had funds.

Two weeks ago, Teodoro said he had received funds from the party, but was unaware if the senatorial candidates had received any.



ATONEMENT FOR SINS

A hooded penitent flagellates himself along a highway to reenact the passion or suffering of Jesus Christ on Holy Week at Naga, Camarines Sur province, about 400 kilometers southeast of Manila, Philippines, Thursday April 1, 2010. Despite the Catholic Church dissuading such practices, hundreds of male devotees from the predominantly Catholic Philippines, flagellate themselves on Holy Week to atone for their sins.

AP

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Philippines defends record after EU plane ban

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipino aviation officials criticized the European Union on Wednesday for banning all Philippine airlines—including the country’s flag carrier—from flying to the continent due to safety concerns. The European Commission on Tuesday banned carriers from the Philippines and Sudan from entering its airspace due to noncompliance with international safety standards. At least 47 Philippine carriers are covered by the ban, which takes effect Thursday, officials said. No Filipino carrier currently flies to Europe, but Philippine Airlines, which last flew to the continent in 1998, said it has always included the EU among a list of destinations where it planned to operate. PAL operates up to 33 weekly flights to American destinations. Alfonso Cusi, director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, acknowledged that there were some safety concerns, but that “does not mean that Philippine aircraft are unsafe.” The ban came after the International Civil Aviation Organization questioned whether the Filipino aviation authority could

adequately ensure the safety of Philippine-registered airlines, and after the earlier downgrading of the Philippines’ safety rating by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. ICAO is the Montreal-based U.N. aviation safety agency.

3 trapped gold miners drown in Philippine tunnel

ITOGON, Philippines (AP)—A wave of mud and water from a nearby river trapped several gold miners tunneling into sealed shafts in the northern Philippines, killing three, an official said Wednesday. About 20 miners entered the complex maze of tunnels Tuesday near Itogon township in the mountain province of Benguet and six were trapped by water, mud and rocks, said George Baywong, a government engineer who led the search and rescue. They failed to surface for several hours. Rescuers found and helped three trapped miners out of the tunnel, but three others drowned, Baywong said. A huge breach in the tunnel apparently allowed water, mud and rocks to enter a part of the underground gold mining complex that has been closed a few

years ago by a private company, he said. Authorities have sealed entrances to the tunnels but illegal miners persist in opening them, Baywong said, adding several miners have died in the tunnels in the past, especially during the rainy season.

19 Pinoys rescued from sinking ship

MANILA, Philippines—Nineteen Filipino crewmen of a Barbados-registered cargo vessel that sank in bad weather off Spain on Tuesday have been rescued and are safe, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Wednesday. The ship “Kea” was carrying ammonium nitrate, a substance that is highly soluble in water and does not pose a danger to the environment, sank off Cape Villano in the northwestern region of Galicia, Spain. It was en route from St. Petersburg, Russia, to Santa Marta, Columbia, when located by rescuers about 160 nautical miles west-northwest of Cape Villano. So far, 22 of the 24 crewmembers have been saved while two were still missing. The ship’s crew was composed of 19 Filipinos, 2 Croatians, a Latvian, a Ghanaian, and a Russian. The Philippine

embassy in Madrid has been instructed to assist the seafarers and facilitate their repatriation to the Philippines. Reports from Madrid said the ship began keeling over late on Monday and sank early Tuesday. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

Comelec to buy 80,000 UV readers to check ballots’ security

MANILA, Philippines—Officials of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said Thursday that there will be UV ink scanners to be deployed in all 76,000 precincts nationwide by May to check that the ballots to be used in polling precincts contain the UV security markings. The poll body allocated at least P1 billion for the procurement of the handheld UV lamps. Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said the Comelec bids and awards committee has started the bidding for the acquisition of 80,000 UV lamps to detect and scan the invisible security markings that will prove the authenticity of the ballots before they are handed to voters. This came after Comelec chairman Jose Melo admitted that some of the ballots printed at the National Printing Office have

misaligned UV markings that might not be read by the poll machines. As of March 31, the NPO

has printed 27 million of the total 50 million ballots for use in the May polls. (*INQUIRER.net*)

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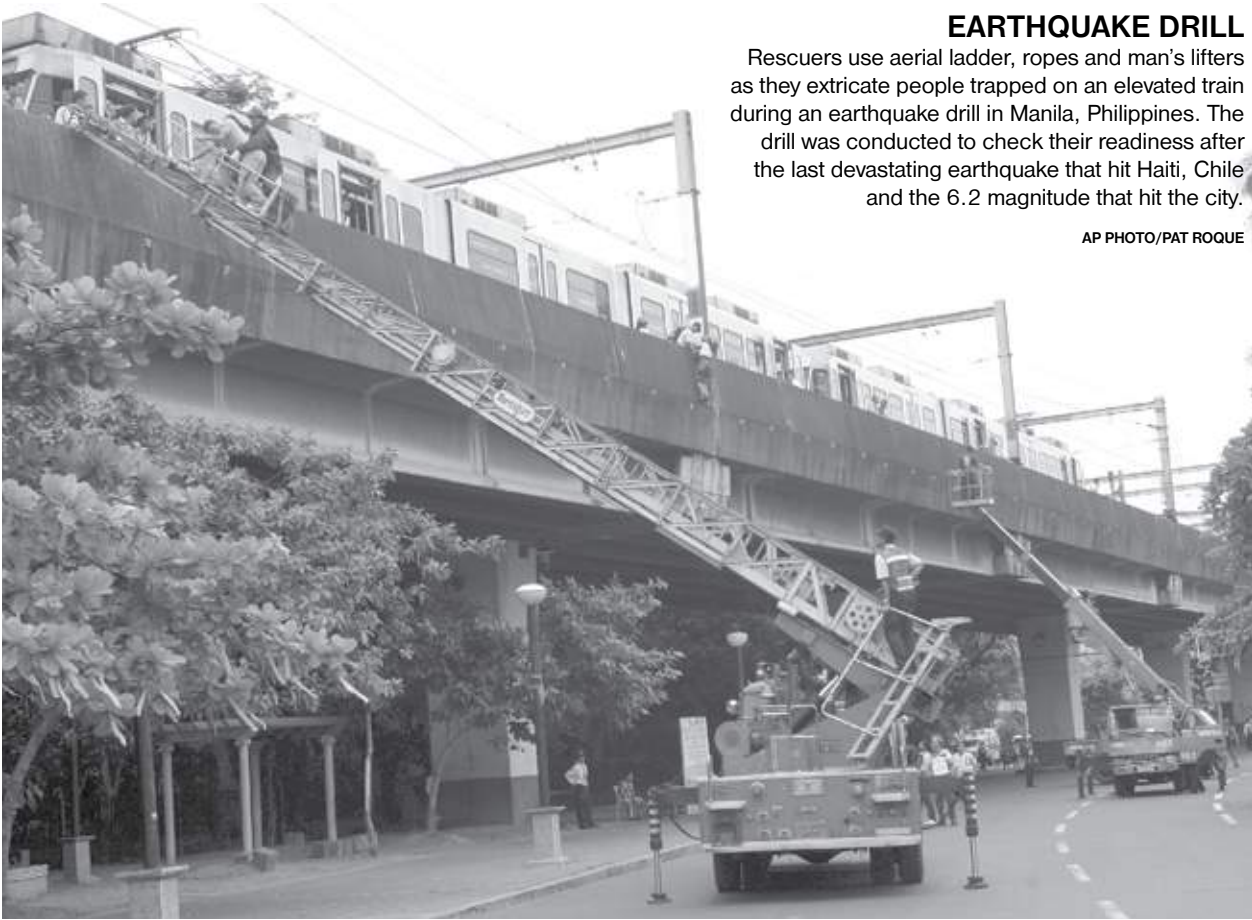
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EARTHQUAKE DRILL

Rescuers use aerial ladder, ropes and man's lifters as they extricate people trapped on an elevated train during an earthquake drill in Manila, Philippines. The drill was conducted to check their readiness after the last devastating earthquake that hit Haiti, Chile and the 6.2 magnitude that hit the city.

AP PHOTO/PAT ROQUE



Grocery customer donates kidney to favorite cashier

By JULIE DEARDORFF
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—A month ago, Dan Coyne knew just two things about a cheerful cashier who worked at Jewel-Osco in Evanston: her first name and her need for a new kidney.

On Friday, however, their lives became inextricably linked after Coyne donated one of his healthy kidneys to Myra de la Vega, of Evanston, a Filipino immigrant and single mother of two teenagers. The daylong organ transplantation took place at Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Kovlar Organ Transplantation Center, which performs about 170 living-donor transplants a year and is one of the busiest programs in the country.

"I really didn't know Myra until after the match," said Coyne, 52, referring to the moment when he learned his blood and tissues were compatible with hers. Since then, his decision to give a diminutive stranger his kidney has profoundly changed both their lives and affected friends, relatives and those who heard about their story.

After the *Tribune* first reported in February about Coyne's promise, several customers told de la Vega that her story had inspired them to pursue becoming living donors. Coyne, a Chicago Public Schools social worker, was honored with a schoolwide assembly at Pershing East Magnet School, where he and de la Vega talked about community service and urged the children to imagine giving back "in unbelievable ways," said Coyne.

And Coyne and de la Vega say that once they recover, they want to help find living donors for some of the 84,000 people in the U.S. suffering from kidney failure.

"I want to give people hope," said de la Vega, 49, who has been spending \$40,000 a month on dialysis since

August of 2008 and once believed her death was imminent. "I think depression goes with this disease, and when it attacks, it really breaks you. When you're a dialysis patient, you have to have something to hold on to. Maybe people will see that if a stranger like Dan comes to me, it can become real for them, too."

Coyne was expected to be discharged from the hospital Saturday. Because de la Vega will need to be monitored after taking anti-rejection medicine, she will stay in the hospital until Monday.

The kidney is the organ most commonly involved in living-donor transplants because bodies can function normally with only one of the fist-sized organs. Some living donors are related by blood; others donate to a general pool. Some, such as Coyne, simply feel an emotional connection with the recipient.

In Illinois, more than 3,800 people are waiting for kidney transplants, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing registry. The average wait time for a kidney from a deceased donor in the Chicago region is about five years, said Dr. John Friedewald, a transplant nephrologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

But living donors can make an immediate impact. Half of living-donor kidneys transplanted now will still function in 15 years, whereas half of kidneys from deceased donors last about 10 years, Friedewald said.

At Jewel-Osco, Coyne often chose de la Vega's checkout line because she was so friendly. But when she started to look sick, he asked what was wrong. After learning de la Vega had started dialysis for kidney failure, he consulted with his wife of 26 years, Emily Coyne, who gave her blessing once she researched the safety of the donation procedure.

Initially, de la Vega said no; she was hoping her sister from the Philippines would be a match. When that didn't work, Coyne repeated his offer.

"I was shocked, but at the same

time I was honored and privileged," said de la Vega, who came to the U.S. in 1996 and has worked the late shift at the grocery for 12 years. After work, she undergoes eight hours of dialysis while sitting up. "He's an angel who lives on Earth."

Over the last month, the two families have grown closer. Coyne's two children, Isaac, 14, and Julia, 11, went through de la Vega's checkout line one evening last month and handed her a card conveying the news that their father was a match. De la Vega's family, which includes her two children, Mydel Santos, 18, Kim Santos, 14, and her 79-year-old mother, Leticia de la Vega, had the Coyne's over for dinner and sent flowers with a note that read, in part, "Thanks for giving our mom a second chance."

Dan Coyne said his gift has no strings attached.

"If we can be friends and our families support each other, fine," he said, "but I want her to know she is in no way obligated to continue a relationship with me after she gets the kidney. It's a gift."

At 6 a.m. Friday, as they drove to Northwestern Memorial Hospital together, Coyne and de la Vega seemed like old friends. Though she was anxious and feeling exhausted, she joked about the surgery.

"My boss said that maybe when I have one of Dan's kidneys, I'll be quieter," de la Vega said. "He says I talk too much, but I say, 'That's how I got my kidney! Why would I change now?'"

At Northwestern, as Coyne and de la Vega prepared to head to their respective surgical floors, they stood looking at each other for a moment. Then they hugged goodbye, both fighting tears.

"Please, Myra, don't worry," Coyne said softly. "It's all going to be OK."

She said nothing. Then Coyne said, "Go now, go get your kidney."

De la Vega flashed him her familiar smile.

"You have to go first," she said.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

Top 10 money advice

Take Charge of Your Money, an editorial partnership between Citibank and www.inquirer.net, has been giving out personal finance advice in this space since September 5, 2006. Readers have sent their questions about saving, investment, debt, financial goals, and financial security. On our 180th column, we looked back on the past three and a half years and chose our top 10 money advice—our gift to you our readers. Here's to a bright financially secure future!

1. Find out how much you are worth. Go ahead, put a price tag on yourself and find out just how much you are worth today. Add up all your assets (cash, bank deposits, liquid investments, house, car, jewelry, and others), deduct all your liabilities (bills due, loan amount, credit card debt, long-term loan), and you will get your net worth. A positive net worth shows you are on the right track, while a negative one will serve as a wake-up call for more financial discipline. This 'snapshot' of your financial standing will also clue you in should you need to move your investment around or stop racking up new debt.

2. Save smarter, not just harder. It's important to save for the future—when unexpected emergencies arise, there will be a fund to dip into. It's also good to save so you can reach your financial goals, whether those include buying your own home, giving your children a good education up to college, or preparing for retirement. But it's not enough to just save money and deposit it in a savings account, which will earn you a small amount of interest. Other investments may possibly give you a higher rate of return. Putting all your cash in a savings account will also allow inflation to erode the purchasing power of your cash. Go for investments that potentially offer rates of return higher than the prevailing inflation rate.

3. Plan for your future needs. Whether it's for your dream wedding, children's college tuition, your car's annual comprehensive motor insurance, your summer vacation next year, or your Christmas gift budget for this year, plan ahead. Find out how much this would cost, then aim to save for that amount monthly beginning today.

4. Make a budget. It can be discouraging to find out toward the end of the month that you are running low on cash—again. To banish this problem forever, discipline yourself into making a budget. Write down your projected income, deduct your must-pay bills (including savings), then apportion the rest into expenses you can control (such as food groceries, going out, etc.). These amounts will be your spending limit. Try not to go over your spending limit or else you will find yourself in debt.

5. Take only as much debt as you can afford to pay. This goes for housing loan, auto loan, credit card debt and the like. That means, before you buy something on credit, ask yourself first if it is something you need and can afford to pay in full the next month, or in reasonable

installments over the succeeding months. As for other loans, review the terms carefully and make sure your budget can accommodate the regular amortizations.

6. Teach your children to handle money well. That starts by not buying them right away anything their hearts desire, whether that's the hottest new toy, game console or gadget. There is nothing wrong with giving children rewards, but if you keep giving them material gifts, they may not learn the difference between wants and needs. Prioritize needs, not wants. Give your children an allowance which will help them learn firsthand what it is to spend, save or give. Teach kids how to budget. Open a bank account in their name and let them see how their money grows. Your children need to know the importance of eight things: budgeting, saving, investing, record-keeping, being content, being good stewards, giving, and having a reward.

7. Build an emergency fund. As the name implies, such a fund is to be used only for emergencies, such as when you suddenly lose your job, or a family member falls ill, or a calamity strikes. Set a time frame on when to complete the fund. Start small and increase amounts as you are able. And consider it a "bill" you have to pay every month. Invest this fund in an account which will help it grow.

8. Be adequately insured. If you are the head of the family or have people depending on you, it is a must that you take out life insurance, as well as health insurance. You'll never know what may happen in the future. A death, illness, or disability will not only be an emotional blow, but a financial burden on loved ones. Take out as much coverage that will help your family tide over the crucial months after the event until they can get back on their feet.

9. Diversify your investments. The old adage, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket" holds true when it comes to investing. Spread out your investment over different asset classes so that if one asset class is performing poorly at the moment, other assets' returns may make up for it. Go for investments that will suit your appetite for risk, your time horizon for investing, and of course your available capital.

10. Live within your means. You don't need to keep up with the neighbors whenever they buy something new. Based on your income, spend only within your limits (as set forth in your budget). Cut costs whenever possible: Take public transport instead of the car every day, make personalized gifts instead of giving out store-bought gifts, host simple instead of lavish parties, and hunt for bargains instead of buying the first thing that you see. Little steps like these amount to a good amount of pesos saved at the end of the year, which you can add to your retirement fund.

This may all seem to be too much in one go, but if you truly wish to turn your situation around, you need to make a commitment for you and your families' financial future. We wish you financial independence and a life well lived. Cheers!

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Girlfriend attends funeral of Buboy's son

By **MARINEL CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—“Angelo didn’t want to die. Before this happened, he still hoped to accomplish a lot of things,” said actor Cesar Montano in a eulogy on Saturday for son Christian Angelo, who shot himself before dawn on March 26, reportedly due to problems with his girlfriend.

Angelo was cremated on Sunday morning. He was 23.

In an interview on “Showbiz Central,” Marilou Diaz-Abaya, director of Montano’s award-winning films “Muro-Ami” and “Jose Rizal,” said Angelo’s girlfriend already went to the funeral. “I was the one who welcomed her. I’m sure she’s also grieving,” Abaya said, refusing to elaborate on the couple’s relationship.

Angelo and elder sister Angela are Montano’s children with first wife Marilyn Polinga, who died of a brain tumor in 1993. Montano has three daughters with actress Sunshine Cruz—Angeline Isabelle, Samantha Angeline and Angel Francesca. The actor’s other son, Caloy Diego, lives with his mom, former actress Teresa Loyzaga, in Australia.

Best friend

“I don’t know if I’ll ever get used to not seeing him at home,” said Montano, who considered Angelo one of his very best friends.

“I would be a big liar if I told you that Angelo

never had problems. Marami siyang hinanakit. That’s why we ask for you to pray for him,” said actor Rommel Montano, Angelo’s uncle, in his eulogy during the memorial service in Arlington Funeral Homes, Quezon City, on Saturday night.

“They decided to open the casket for viewing,” said Montano’s talent manager Norma Japitana.



Actor Cesar Montano

“This is to avoid more speculations,” Angelo was wearing a light brown barong Tagalog that Montano personally picked.

Japitana revealed that she was closer to Angelo than to most of her own nephews. “We had a lot of happy memories together,” she said. “I was touched by how much he loved Sunshine. He called her ‘mommy.’”

In his eulogy, comedian Bayani Agbayani—

who lives next door to the Montanos at the Tivoli Royale Subdivision in Old Balara, Quezon City—said he was driving out of his gate on Thursday when he last saw Angelo. He said the young man seemed to want to say something to him. “He approached me, kaya lang nahiya siguro, so he simply said, ‘Mag-iingat po kayo,’” Agbayani recalled.

Like his own son

The father of three daughters, Agbayani said he considered Angelo as his own son, too. “He was my children’s playmate. I watched him grow up. He was very courteous, palaging nagmamano,” said Agbayani.

Actress Lorna Tolentino attended the memorial service with sons Ralph and Renz Fernandez. She said she first met Angelo when he and Montano turned up at the wake of her husband, Rudy Fernandez, in 2008.

Others who paid their last respects on Saturday night were actors Celia Rodriguez, Gloria Romero, Tirso Cruz III, Nova Villa, Joko Diaz, movie producer Marlon Bautista, filmmaker Toto Natividad, Philippine National Red Cross chair Rosal Rosal and daughter Toni Rose Gayda. Also present were ABS-CBN channel head Cory Vidanes and husband, director Bobet, who worked with Montano on the now-defunct talent show “Singing Bee.”

RP bet to Miss Universe pageant disqualified

MANILA (AFP)—The Philippines’ entry for the Miss Universe beauty pageant has been disqualified after local organizers discovered she was born overseas and out of wedlock, a contest official said Wednesday.

Maria Venus Raj, 21, was set to represent her country in August and begin charity work after winning the Miss Philippines-Universe competition early this month.

But the journalism graduate was stripped of her title on Monday after the foundation that runs the local competition discovered she had been born in Qatar to an Indian man who was not married to her Filipina mother.

Her birth certificate stated she was born in the Philippines to married Filipinos.

“We found out about the inconsistencies after the coronation night,” Lilia Ambay, of Miss Philippines-Universe Charity Incorporated, told Agence France-Presse.

She was stripped of her position not due to citizenship issues but because her birth certificate contained false information, Ambay said.

A runner-up will replace Raj in the Miss Universe contest, Ambay added.

Miss Philippines is a highly prestigious title and winners often go on to lucrative modeling or showbiz careers.

Cesar recalls playing pranks on Angelo

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I finally got to talk to my BFF Cesar Montano and his lovely wife, Sunshine, the night before Buboy’s son Angelo was cremated in Arlington. Though still obviously grieving, Buboy tried to stay cheerful during the wake. He kept offering me all kinds of snacks, even teased if I wanted wine.

“He is keeping a brave front but bigla-bigla siyang humahagulgol,” said Shine. “I’ve never seen him this way. I also have to stay strong for him and our kids.”

I got misty-eyed when Buboy slipped a “Montano Ako” baller bracelet on my wrist while saying, “I know Angelo didn’t want to die yet because he was wearing a bracelet like this, which means he was committed to my campaign and my vision. Ang dami naming plano at pangarap together. But I know he will always be with me in spirit.”

As a daily reminder of that, Buboy now wears the baller bracelet and also the anklet that Angelo was wearing at the time of his death. It was so heartwarming to see Buboy’s swollen eyes light up as he reminisced about happy times with Angelo.

“We both loved playing pranks on each other,” the proud dad recalled. “When he was in grade school, I told him that his teacher informed me that they should all wear a Santa Claus costume to their Christmas party. So I gave him money to buy such a costume. He was so surprised and dyahe when he got to the party kasi siya lang naka-costume. Alaskado siya ng classmates nya.”

“Another time pinag-tripan ko lang siya. Kunwari galit ako kasi parati na lang rugged ang suot niya. I told him mag coat and tie tayong dalawa kasi may event tayong pupuntahan. So bihis naman siya agad, only to find out na sa simpleng resto lang kami magdi-dinner.”

Shine also has fond memories of her stepson.

“At the height of my misunderstanding with Buboy’s sis before, never siya kumampi o kumalaban. He treated me like his own mom the same way that I loved him like my own. Konting atraso lang nya, magso sorry agad.”

“I can’t stop laughing when I remember the time Buboy did a striptease in our bedroom during my birthday. Tawa nang tawa si Angelo when his dad was dancing in front of him na parang macho dancer. Minsan naman nag-habito silang mag-ama at tinakot ako while I was asleep. Our house will never be the same without Angelo.”

Even if Buboy and Shine can no longer have such moments with Angelo, may they take comfort in the thought that they can always recapture the memories in their heart. There is truly love even after death. In time, their grief will turn into joy when they reach the point of remembering (Angelo) minus the pain.

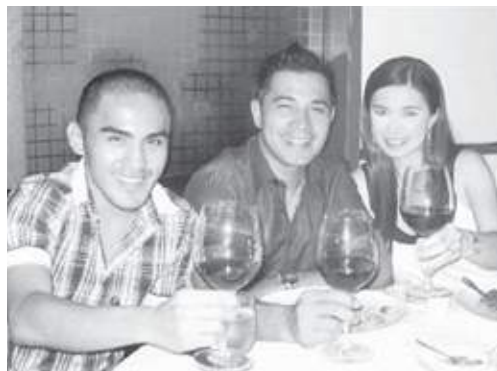
Jolo Revilla reacted to my item about his ex, Lovi Poe, asking him to buy her jewelry and condo stuff. His message read: “Kusang loob ko po binigay kay Lovi ang mga gifts na iyon. Di n’ya hiningi sa akin.”

It was a joy to see my childhood idol, Tito Dolphy! Eric and Epy Quizon brought me to their dad’s dressing room at TV5’s grand launch. I was so touched when he told me that he always reads my column and he misses my mom all the more every time he sees me.

(Joey de Leon, Vic Sotto and Direk Bert de Leon came in. It was such a delight to watch them brainstorm their number on the spot.)

Eric flew in from Hong Kong, where he is now based, for the launch. He is directing his dad’s show on TV5, “Pidol in Wonderland.”

“It will be sort of a Lola Basyang thing, with my dad telling the story which could vary from fantasy, drama or comedy. Nakakatuwa si Dad. Sharp na sharp pa rin ang mind. Ang bilis ng pick-up. Bawal lang siya magpagod masyado. Physically, he may



Angelo with dad Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz.

need to slow down a bit but mentally he’s still so quick. When he has an important decision to make or a deal to close, he looks for me. I will hop on the next plane out of HK to fly home.”

I teased Eric that he is his dad’s favorite son. He just smiled. No doubt, Tito Dolphy and Eric are each other’s best.

I kidded Vandolph. “Bati na tayo ha?” I haven’t seen Vandolph in a long time. Many controversies ago, I wrote a scoop about Vandolph’s love child (Gabrielle) with my friend Gia. Both of them are now happy with their respective partners. “Dapat maganda na isulat mo sa akin ha?” Vandolph teased. Now that he has another baby with his wife Jenny, Vandolph is now taking fatherhood seriously.

The bigwigs of a company that manufactures one of the products that Marian Rivera endorses got peeved at her. She made them wait for hours to pose for pictures with them. Maybe she was in one of her moods, that’s why she didn’t want to go out of her hotel room for a photo-op. Hmm ... not a pretty picture of Marian again.

Maricel Soriano, Yayo Aguila and I all had a good laugh when we bumped into each other at the ladies room of the World Trade Center during

TV5’s launch. Maria and I happen to be the exes of Yayo’s husband, William Martinez.

“Let’s put the past behind,” Maria said in jest. Maria is ninang to my son IC and also to Yayo and William’s kid.

On our way out, Maria’s teenage son Maron was waiting for her. I teased her. “Does he have a GF already?”

The proud Ma smiled. “Yup at approve naman sa akin.”

When Yayo and I joined William at their table, I kidded William. “You better hide! Nag-compare notes kami sa CR about you.”

I was saddened by the news of a Facebook friend that Anjanette Abayari is now under LA County Rehab. Prior to that, she was in and out of a hospital for medication.

According to him, AJ is gaunt and looks so wilted. Once upon a time, I was close to AJ when we were both endorsing Revlon. I wish there’s something I could do to help her get her act together. It’s never too late for AJ to regain lost glory.

All she needs is the proper motivation and the right mentor. Her addiction ought to be replaced by the passion she used to have as an artist.

A colleague sent me this text message: “Balita ko naghahanap na ng condo unit si Shaina Magdayao and John Lloyd Cruz. Baliw na baliw na si Shaina kay JLC. Si JLC parang ‘di naman seryoso. Sana ‘di mabuntis si Shaina ng wala sa oras tulad ng Ate Vina niya.”

True or false? Whatever the real score is, Shaina and Lloydie have all the right to be happy. Live and let live! Love and let love!

A Facebook contact from Istanbul insists that Yilmaz Bektas has gotten hitched already. I still have to confirm this.

Ruffa Gutierrez is now enjoying her newfound freedom. So Yilmaz is also moving on. But no matter what, Ruffa and Yilmaz will never “divorce” themselves from their adorable daughters Lorin and Venice.

Maharlika – Opinyon

A life for others

Yes, it is Holy Week. In Christian tradition, Holy Week is a quiet celebration of love in the highest sense—that of a life offered for the love of a friend.

Fraternal love does not seem to be the first love, however. If we follow Christian teachings closely, or most religious teachings for that matter, the first love is from a parent to a child, of God for man, of Creator for His creation.

From that first love flowed the first sacrifice, of a Father to His children, of God sending His only Son so that others may live beyond death, beyond suffering, to a life of joy and bliss.

And so, a great collective action of Filipinos has begun in the natural tradition of parental love. I speak of overseas Filipino workers, those who left without wanting to but felt forced by circumstance to be separated from loved ones, to earn not just money for their families but a chance to break a history of poverty and the slavery it engenders. Holy Week reminds me strongly and emotionally about them, a generation of Filipinos attempting to buy the freedom of their future generations.

Overseas Filipino Workers or OFWs are the sacrificial generation. They allow themselves to be crucified in the cross of separation, even to suffer indignities from citizens of other countries, subjugating their honor and pride, just so they can earn opportunity and money for their families. They believe that the money they can bequeath to the next generations will bring dignity and hope as well. Meanwhile, they give up on much of their own happiness.

That Man who was crucified on one Friday two thousand years ago gave His life so others may find freedom from evil and gain ac-

cess to a life hereafter of freedom and unimaginable joy. He chose to suffer, he chose to die an ignoble death at the hands of mere mortals, so that a new life can be born for all mankind.

In the same path of sacrifice follow millions of Filipinos who fear poverty and hopelessness more than the absence of happiness from the warmth of family togetherness. Fathers and mothers are torn apart from the children they love not any less than parents who stay with their spouses and children. But the history of these OFWs are rife with grave frustrations in a society which does not enough doors for emancipation and progress, where wealth builds power and power is used to build more wealth.

Those who comprise the majority of the Filipino people are excluded from this cycle of opportunity and capacity. However, the desire to have a taste of a better life for themselves and their families, the need to secure a brighter future for their next generations beat strongly in their hearts of hearts and propel them to accept an exchange of a lifetime of suffering for lifetimes of hope.

The sacrifice of a generation is starting to pay off in the material sense as families of OFWs are experiencing lives with greater capacity to spend and buy convenience, even comfort for many. This is progress in the material sense, visible and tangible, graphically manifested in large two-storey houses that often spring from the most dilapidated of neighborhoods. Recently, however, this has improved to beautiful homes in new subdivisions that cater to OFWs.

The practice of developed countries to depend on foreign nationals to be their work horses, to be the domestic help they can never afford from their own people, to serve and entertain them, and sometimes even be their best professionals or executives, does not seem to weaken in the near future. The birth control traditions of several of the most developed nations of the world have established a pattern of labor shortage in their societies, and Filipinos will remain a clear preference as substitute labor for many.

The sacrificial generation of OFWs pay a steep price which their

families pay as well. Separation is not a natural way of life. From a poverty that denies the material basics of life is a poverty caused by absence that damages the emotions and soul of a family. Philippine society will soon see clearly the price that the whole society pays in broken families and the attendant behavioral aberrations that go with this brokenness. Drug addiction is but one of these consequences, yet it already wreaks havoc in thousands of families.

A people long enslaved by the more bitter part of colonialism, by being the conquered rather than the conqueror, continue to pay the price of such subjugation. Worse, much worse, is the fact that when the foreign masters left, Filipino leaders found compatibility with the exploitative agenda of the colonizers and are bringing that dark art to new levels today. Literally, the poor have become poorer as hunger incidences have reached record levels in the Gloria Arroyo administration.

If our poorest who still comprise at least a fourth or a third of the population, not only get poorer but more hungry as well, they cannot make any sacrifice for their next generations like the OFWs can—even if they are more than willing to do so. They cannot get travel documents, much less work opportunities abroad.

It must be others who need to sacrifice themselves for the poorest of the poor, to become their virtual parents who carry in their hearts the obligation to nurture their impoverished children.

Many expect the government to be the big brother, but the worsening hunger situation of the country is testimony to the absence of care, indicative of the absence of concern.

It is Holy Week. Among Filipinos who are Christian, it is the perfect way to remember the Man whose mission was to bring glad tidings to the poor, Who chose to be one among them and not among the billionaires of His society then. The joy of Easter and a new life must come for the least of our brothers and sisters, not from sermons or political speeches, but from true Christians and patriots willing to walk their faith.



Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EDITORIAL

The Vatican's cross

This must be the bleakest Holy Week at the Vatican in many decades. An unholy shroud of suspicion has enveloped the Holy See, threatening to suffocate even the papacy itself. An Associated Press story Wednesday drew a forbidding global picture: "As the faithful fill churches this Holy Week, many Roman Catholics around the world are finding their relationship to the church painfully tested by new revelations of clerical abuse and suggestions [that Pope] Benedict himself may have helped cover up cases in Germany and the US."

It is vital, then, to know exactly what is happening—and how Benedict's involvement has been misreported or misinterpreted.

Make no mistake: we think the continuing sexual abuse scandal is wreaking havoc on the Church and its reputation; we believe the Pope's role in a possible cover-up of or an altogether sluggish response to allegations of priestly abuse is an entirely legitimate subject of inquiry; we hold the view that the Church must do all it can to disinfect itself of the fatal virus of clerical abuse.

But veteran Vatican reporter John Allen, in a lengthy post on his blog for the National Catholic Reporter, has pointed out three fundamental misreadings of the Pope's involvement. First, it was only in the last four years of his two decades at the helm of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith that Benedict, then Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, assumed the lead role in the Vatican's crackdown on abusive priests. In other words, before 2001, Ratzinger had no role to play in the investigation of sexual abuse allegations at all.

Second, the May 2001 letter that Ratzinger addressed to his fellow bishops, Allen wrote, "marked recognition in Rome, really for the first time, of how serious the problem of sex abuse really is, and it committed the Vatican to getting directly involved." In other words, instead of being so-called proof that Ratzinger told bishops to keep sexual abuse allegations secret from government authorities, the letter was, at that time it was issued, "widely hailed as a watershed moment towards a solution."

Third, to the recent disclosure that only 20 percent of more than 3,000 abuse cases were allowed to proceed to a canonical trial, the *New York Times* and other news organizations responded by misinterpreting it as proof of Vatican inaction. Thus, Allen wrote: "In the end, however, only 20 percent were sent back for trials, while for the bulk of the cases, 60 percent, bishops were authorized to take immediate administrative action, because the proof was held to be overwhelming...to describe that 20 percent figure as a sign of 'inaction' cannot help but seem, to anyone who's been paying attention, rather ironic."

None of this is to excuse Church officials, or indeed Pope Benedict XVI himself, from rendering a true account of what they knew and when they knew it. That clearing of the air may not be enough to lift the shroud off the Vatican, but it would be a start.

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Their master's voice

In "Presidential Bandwagon: Parties and Party Systems in the Philippines," Japanese scholar Yuko Kasuya set out to work on a problem. Here's her own summary of what her work was about: "In the wake of democratization, one of the biggest challenges facing new governments is managing a smooth transition to democratic rule." This was the specific problem Filipinos faced in 1986 after the dictatorship fell.

So Kasuya asked, "How can newly elected governments stabilize their hold on power and consolidate democratic processes?" Or, put another way, "Under what conditions might an apparently successful transition misfire?"

Kasuya "explores these questions by focusing on one of the most pressing issues in consolidating democracy: the stability of party politics." And she also asks, why is it that "the party system changed from a stable two-party system to an unstable multi-party system in the aftermath of democratization in the Philippines?"

Kasuya argues that "the shortened presidential term limit from two terms to one under the new Constitution was the major factor that destabilized the party system in the post-Marcos era." The nature of the president's term means that parties have no reason to stick together to support the re-election of a president; that, furthermore, presidents keep their focus on simply keeping their coalitions together during their time in office, but lose much of their ability to influence who would replace them.

And a longer presidential term also means a longer period in the wilderness for politicians, who could be attracted to join each president's temporary coalition, depriving opposition parties of leaders to wait in the wings.

But all the efforts to nurture a coalition from scratch (to keep governors and congressmen fat and happy, or to prevent an opposition victory in the Senate), all the things that keep presidents busy for six years melt away as soon as the campaign for their successors begin. The present Frankenstein coalition is two-thirds Lakas-CMD and one third Kampi, the former itself a hybrid created to provide a political vehicle for Fidel V. Ramos and the latter manufactured by President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband as a vehicle for his wife. Lakas itself withered away during the brief Estrada presidency, and it took repeated jolts of patronage to finally assemble the present Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

On Monday news came that Gilbert Teodoro Jr. had resigned his post as party chair, followed less than a day later by the party president, Miguel Dominguez. Asked to respond to Teodoro's resignation, Speaker Prospero Nograles said, "It is a shock to me and without consultation from us, the previous leaders of the party. [I] am now confused and seem to be out of the loop." When asked about Dominguez, he said, "What has happened to our party, to each his own?"

Yet only a few days before (on March 26), the party nomenclatura

had gathered in Mandaluyong to witness the signing of a "Green Covenant," with Prospero Pichay (he of the repeated assurances the Frankenstein coalition has 33 percent of the national vote in the bag) in proud attendance. Except to be Green requires more than sentimental ties. Or it may simply be that the kick-off of the local races led provincial allies to discover that Teodoro had no goodies to dispense.

Which makes quite relevant the March 29 statement of Sen. Richard Gordon in Hilongos, Leyte, who tartly observed, "Traditional politicians will go to Villar. They see how much money that guy is really pouring. They are just waiting for their campaign funds." No money, no honey, and the flies, having buzzed around Teodoro for some months, have decided to feast elsewhere. The biggest and juiciest of them—the ones, incidentally, on whose shoulders would rest the much-vaunted Pichay prediction of a 33 percent administration percentage regardless of public opinion—had been droning over to Villar's side for days.

Three days before Teodoro threw in the towel as far as the party chairmanship was concerned, provincial kingpin Chavit Singson announced that he was officially supporting Sen. Manuel Villar. Another provincial kingpin, Jose Zubiri, has done likewise (though his sons remain officially members of the ruling coalition). Alvin Garcia in Cebu has publicly gone for Villar, while Gov. Gwen Garcia has publicly endorsed Loren Legarda for vice president. Other Lakas officials began

trickling into the Villar camp late last year, as Robert Ace Barbers of Surigao did in October and the Eusebios of Pasig did in November.

Something mentioned in Bukidnon Online piqued my interest: It was the elder Zubiri's claim that he had invited Teodoro to address his provincemates in order to "dispel rumors he is a mere 'puppet' of outgoing President Arroyo," only to be snubbed. Now Edwin Espejo, in the same article in which he reported talk that party secretary-general Francis Manglapus also relinquished his party post, also quoted Fidel V. Ramos as commenting that Teodoro would have to make a bold move: "Gibo will have to do something... he will likely do it." Was he talking of an FVR-style bolting of the coalition? Desperate times call for desperate measures.

The President's American spokesman, Gary Olivar, cheekily snorted it's a "win-win" situation, and for once he may have been telling the truth. Teodoro remains an ongoing experiment. But a sideshow.

The clincher is in the same article by Espejo (March 26 in GMA News. tv): "Party insiders said that they have been receiving reports that the husband of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been calling Lakas-KAMPI-CMD officials to shift their support to Villar."

Jinggoy Estrada once complained that Villar had shoplifted their theme and campaign color. His father's spokesmen have pointed out that the stampede to the NP is merely the same dogs with different collars obeying the same master's voice.



The Long View

By MANUEL L. QUEZON III
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

A SERIES OF PROCLAMATION SIGNINGS



2010 LIBRARY MONTH



2010 CENSUS WEEK



2010 ENFORCING UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS



2010 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



2010 SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS



DEAN'S LISTER

Gospel Julian Trinidad, daughter of Pastor Ramiro Trinidad, was named to the Dean's List at Pensacola Christian College for academic achievement during the 2009 Fall semester. This was a result of earning a B average or higher. The institution is a liberal arts college enrolling students from every state in the U.S. and from around the world. It has an enrollment well above 4,000 students and offers variety of programs of study.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 23rd birthday to Lena Wabol, who is celebrating her special day today, April 3! May your day be filled with joy and blessings. Much love from family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Tintin from the Basa family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young Style

Separated children in Haiti often not welcome home

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Stranded since the earthquake, 9-year-old Ana toes the dusty concrete outside her orphanage and tells a social worker she wants to go back to live with her half-sister. Within hours, the aid worker hits pay dirt, finding the adult sister in a sprawling shantytown.

But there's a problem. The sister, an impoverished woman with two children of her own, was the one who dropped the girl at the orphanage in the first place.

"This is going to be difficult," sighed Mario Marcellus, a Haitian caseworker for World Vision—one of five international aid groups working to trace children living in orphanages or homeless camps since the earthquake and return them to their families.

The aid groups have already found 700 children they believe were separated from their families by the earthquake, and they expect the number to rise dramatically because of a new hot line set up to report cases of separated children.

The work is tedious, especially for younger children who can't give phone numbers or details of their families in a city where hundreds of thousands have been forced from their homes into makeshift camps. And too often, days of sleuthing lead not to joyful reunions but to parents and guardians too overwhelmed to take the children back.

World Vision has managed to find families for only 12 of its 300 cases so far. And only five children have been reunited with their families. In seven other cases, the families did not want them back.

"We have appreciated the conditions of the parents are not the greatest, but we have been shocked to learn the parents have not been looking for them, or they have not expected them back," said Noah Ochola, the leader of World Vision's Children in Emergencies program.

The magnitude-7 earthquake that the government estimates killed 230,000 people proved the breaking point for many families that could barely afford to feed their children before.

The World Vision team found Ana on Monday at a partially collapsed orphanage in the Tabarre flatlands on the northern edge of Port-au-Prince, sleeping with 17 other children in a tent rigged from bed sheets.

She has a rash covering her face and body that is going untreated, and orphanage director Idalia Supreme said the girl is so traumatized that she has no memory of the earthquake.

Wearing a pink embroidered dress and blue plastic sandals, Ana huddled in an alley with Marcellus, the caseworker, who gently prodded for clues about her life before the Jan. 12 quake: What does your house look like? What do you remember about your neighborhood?

Supreme took Marcellus aside and warned him that a reunion may not be possible for Ana and her half-sister.

"She brought her here because times are hard," Supreme said, spreading her palms out toward the toppled concrete homes nearby.

The girl's mother died when she was younger. Her father, who lives nearby, visited after the earthquake and complained that she does not belong in an

By MIKE MELIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



Kenny, far left, and his sister Erika, second from left, walk with neighbors at the Albert Einstein Hospital north of Port-au-Prince, Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Kenny and Erika will be sent to live with relatives after their father died in the Jan. 12 earthquake and their mother died due to complications with AIDS on Tuesday.



Kenny holds up his drawing at the Albert Einstein Hospital north of Port-au-Prince, Wednesday, March 31, 2010.



Russ Nieland, right, a physiotherapist from Duluth, MN, gives recovering therapy to Haitian earthquake survivor Ricky Dave Hector at the Albert Einstein hospital, 80 km. north of Port-Au-Prince, Wednesday, March 31, 2010.

orphanage. But he offered no alternative, Supreme said.

Even amid the dire conditions since the quake, the guiding principle of the aid groups is that children's best protectors are their families. To that end, they have developed strategies to win over reluctant guardians like Ana's sister.

Aid groups refer parents and guardians in the desperately poor country to

earning opportunities such as the U.N. work-for-food program. To make the children seem less of a burden, they are sent home with parcels of rice, sandals, toothpaste and cooking oil. World Vision also provides \$60 to \$150 in cash, depending on how many children the family has.

"It gives them room to think, to see beyond another two or three months

what kind of work they can be engaged in," Ochola said.

The smallest aid can make a difference.

Ramsey Ben-Achour, the Haiti director for Heartland Alliance, another of the five groups under UNICEF, said he met one man who did not want to take two of his children home from a field hospital. He had two other children, his wife died in the earthquake and their house collapsed. But after the aid group gave him two mattresses, tent tarps and food rations, he agreed to take back the children.

"He thinks he's going to be giving them a better life by leaving them there (at the hospital)," Ben-Achour said. "But what's actually going to happen is they're going to turn into street children, they're going to end up trying to wash cars, they're going to join gangs

or be exploited sexually."

The disaster heightened an existing problem: the institutionalization of children in a country where roughly 40 percent of the population is under age 14. Most of the 50,000 children who lived in orphanages before the earthquake had at least one living parent, said Andy Brooks, the UNICEF child protection chief.

As many as 250,000 other children were living in a form of slavery—the so-called "restaveks" sent to live in more affluent households, where many suffer abuse—in exchange for shelter and sometimes schooling.

Marcellus, a psychologist, said he dedicated his career to children because they are among the most neglected in Haitian society. Since the quake, he said, he feels more needed than ever.

"I have to work twice as hard and make more sacrifices for my job," he said.

Brooks said he hopes the outpouring of global assistance will help create a better-regulated system for tending to unwanted children.

"I think the most important thing is really to use the opportunity, if I can say that, of the resources and the increased capacity ... to develop with the government creative and innovative ways to get children to stay with their families," he said.

The vast number of discarded children has complicated aid workers' efforts, but their loose mandate is still to focus on those separated since the quake. The less time that has passed since the separation, the easier it is to reunite families.

In Ana's case, there are already signs of progress.

Marcellus called her sister, who seemed wary over the phone.

But he explained how Ana was traumatized and living in poor conditions, and she agreed in a later conversation to meet with him and Ana at the orphanage next week.

Marcellus is hopeful: "The only reason she doesn't want to take her sister back is because she doesn't have money."

Survey: Kids spurn celeb chef's healthy lunches



In this publicity image released by ABC, chef and TV personality Jamie Oliver, standing left, and Principal Patrick O'Neal talk with students at Central City Elementary school during the taping of his reality series, "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution," in Huntington, W. Va., airing Friday, March 26, 2010 on ABC.

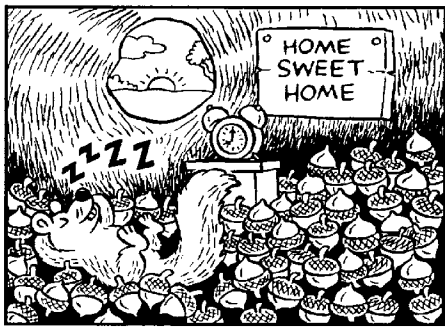
MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—A survey shows kids at the West Virginia school featured in "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution" liked their standard pizza and chicken nuggets more than the celebrity chef's fresh, healthy menu items.

And when denied the food they were used to, many stopped buying the school lunch.

The survey at Central City Elementary in Huntington also found children drank less milk after Oliver removed the sugary chocolate and strawberry bottles.

But there is a bright spot in the data from the West Virginia University Health Research Center: More than six in 10 kids said they'd learned to try new foods.

ABC chose to have the show in Huntington after a 2008 Associated Press story dubbed the five-county metropolitan area the nation's unhealthiest.



IT'S MORNING and this little squirrel is still hibernating. When he wakes up, how many nuts will he have for breakfast?

Answer: We counted 55. Did you find that many?

FARMER BROWN STRIKES IT RICH! When he brought a truckload of chickens and sheep to market, he noticed that, all together, they had 24 heads and 76 feet. If he was paid \$3 per chicken and \$10 per sheep, how much money did he make that day?

HERE'S A KNOTTY PROBLEM! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with NOT. Some hints are:
1. NOT (in place). 2. A brief record.
3. A V-shaped cut. 4. A whim.
5. Something remarkable. 6. Made known.



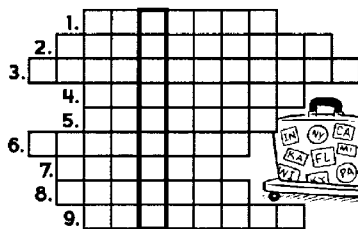
1. The Empire State.
2. The Golden State.
3. The Keystone State.
4. The Great Lakes State.
5. The Sunshine State.
6. The Prairie State.
7. The Sunflower State.
8. The Hoosier State.
9. The Bluegrass State.

If you solve this puzzle correctly, the dark-framed column in the grid will spell out the name of the Badger State.

Answers: 1. New York, 2. California, 3. Pennsylvania, 4. Michigan, 5. Florida, 6. Illinois, 7. Kansas, 8. Indiana, 9. Kentucky. The dark-framed column spells "Wisconsin."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A "STATE" OF MIND PUZZLE!

Let's take a trip around the country. Below are the mottos of nine states.

Your problem is to identify the name of each state, using these mottos, and then enter the state's name in the puzzle grid above. Have a nice trip!

Illustrated by David Coulson

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was 19th-century French author Pierre-Jules Renard who made the following sage observation about his craft: "Literature is an occupation in which you have to keep proving your talent to people who have none."

■ Guinness, that notoriously dark and bitter Irish brew, contains fewer calories than skim milk or orange juice. Stout for breakfast, anyone?

■ Lawmakers in Phoenix once saw fit to make it illegal to walk through a hotel lobby while wearing spurs.

■ It's hard to imagine what life was like before the widespread availability of refrigeration, isn't it? Some people have decided to find out—and you might be surprised at how many. Although 99.5 percent of all households in the United States have a refrigerator, that still means that more than 1.5 million households are fridge-less.

■ Swedish chemist and engineer Alfred Nobel, famed inventor of dynamite and originator of the Nobel Prizes, could speak five languages fluently by the time he was 17 years old.

■ Finland has more islands than any other country in the world.

■ Those who study such things claim that the hair on people of European descent tends to whorl in a counterclockwise fashion, while on most Japanese people it whorls in the opposite direction.

■ It seems that Warren G. Harding, the 29th president of the United States, was something of a gambler. During one hand of poker he bet the White House china—and lost it.

■ The Australia Zoo was recently the site of an attempted escape—by a 137-pound orangutan named Karta. The ingenious primate evidently short-circuited the electric fence around her enclosure using a stick, then stacked up more sticks to climb over the fence.

■ The English word "gelatin" comes from the French for "edible jelly."

Thought for the Day: "What sane person could live in this world and not be crazy?"—Ursula K. Le Guin

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MAGIC MAZE • TURNING 50 IN 2010

R V S Q O S A R E D N A B L S
Y T R A I R O M M L J H O I E
C A N X V L T R M P N U L L H
R J H A F E L W A Y G A D U A
B I Y X R V T E D A S R G P N
O M P K I G G E N R D H B L N
Z X W K U T Y I A I G R E Q A
O N N N E P S M V R T N L J H
I G P R I N C E A N D R E W F
D C A L E U Z N E L A V E A Y
X W V T N O T T U H M I T B S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Amy Grant Bertinelli Elway Hannah
Hugh Grant Lendl Louganis Marsalis
Moriarty Penn Prince Andrew Ripken
Tim Hutton Valenzuela Van Damme

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

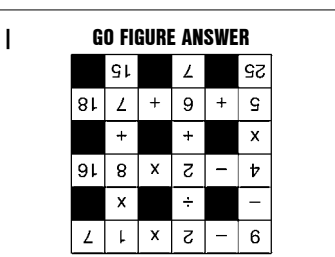
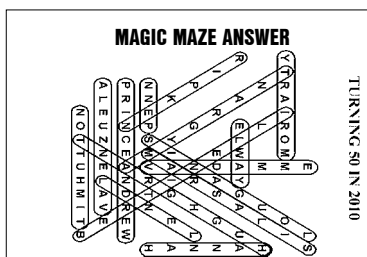
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		x		7
-		÷		x	
	-		x		16
x		+		+	
	+		+		18
25		7		15	

1 2 2 4 5 6 7 8 9
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Second-guessing dog's death

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I recently lost my dog "Mischa" to an illness, and I'm overwhelmed with sadness and guilt. Her death was very sudden; one day she was fine and then she was not. I can't help wondering if there was anything I could have done to prevent this from happening. Did I give her the wrong food? Was there something in her medications she might have had a reaction to? I've had no answers from the vet. Am I wrong for constantly second-guessing myself? Should I just get over it?—Devastated in Dallas

DEAR DEVASTED: First, I'm very sorry for your loss. Pets are so much a part of our families that losing them can be incredibly difficult. "Getting over" the loss of a pet isn't something anyone should be told to do—it's not unusual to feel sadness for a pet years after its death. A close friend of mine still speaks fondly of his dog King, who died when he was a boy. And I often miss pets I lost years ago.

I personally feel that adults can grieve openly for pets in a way that they can't grieve for humans. We have to bear up and be brave at the loss of a relative or friend, perhaps be the one who must organize everything. But for



a lost pet there are no such barriers to just grieving for them.

On the other hand, you want answers for Mischa's sudden death. More questions should be asked of the veterinarian. What did her symptoms point to—an infection, a reaction to something? That the vet has no answer at all is curious, but I'm not familiar with the circumstances. Continue pressing for answers from the vet.

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet resources at www.PawsCorner.com.

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Twist, shape and bake healthy bread bears

Baking bread is just plain fun when your preschoolers shape prepared dough into adorable bear shapes. Toss in simple math along the way too, as your pint-size bakers divide the dough into halves, fourths and even sixths to form the bear's arms, legs and snout. They'll watch the dough rise before their eyes, and they'll love "painting" the bears with an egg wash before you pop them in the oven.

Serve them warm, drizzled with some honey from a little pot for a memorable afternoon treat.

Here are the simple ingredients you'll need for two 8-inch-tall bears:

■ One loaf of prepared frozen bread dough, such as Rhodes brand (available in the frozen-food section of grocery stores)

■ 1 egg, beaten with 1 tablespoon of water

■ Raisins

■ Honey (optional)

Here's the fun:

1. Thaw the loaf of frozen bread dough for two 8-inch-tall bears. Use it while it is still cold.

2. Cut the loaf in half. Set one of the halves aside for a few minutes while you form the first bear.

3. Cut the dough into two even pieces, and let your child roll one of the pieces into a ball with his hands. Set it on a large, greased cookie sheet for the body. Press it down to flatten slightly.

4. Cut the other piece in half. Roll one of the halves into a ball for the head and place it above the body. You may need to pinch the two parts together.

5. Pick off a small bit from the re-



maining piece for the snout. Cut the rest into six even pieces. Roll all seven small pieces into balls. Place a ball on the face for the snout, two ears at the top of the head, 2 arms at the sides of the body, and 2 legs to the bottom of the body.

6. Make tiny slits in the dough and insert raisins for eyes and for a belly button. Repeat steps for second bear.

7. Let them rise, covered with a damp towel or plastic wrap, for about 45 minutes in a warm place until doubled in size.

8. Remove covering and brush some egg mixture on top of the bears. Bake at 350 F for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a cooling rack.

Tip: Make several bears, and dress them up with thin ribbons tied around their necks. Set in a basket as treats at a teddy bear party.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Mall capital of Asia: When in Manila, go shopping



By DEBORAH YAO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines is known for many things: beautiful beaches, overseas workers and the multitude of shoes owned by former first lady Imelda Marcos.

Less known to the West, however, is that the archipelago is a shoppers' dream, the home of three of the world's 10 largest malls. That is remarkable, given that the Philippines is about the size of Arizona.

Shopping, along with eating and basketball, is an important national pastime. Filipinos take their mallgoing so seriously that it is practically their only destination every weekend. Many of the malls in the metro Manila area are minicities, with department stores, supermarkets, theaters, spas and even an Olympic-size skating rink. Christian and Muslim religious services also are held at the malls.

Air-conditioned malls are a welcome escape from the tropical heat and humidity. Families and friends frequently spend entire days hanging out at one mall.

It is easy for English-speaking tourists to shop in Manila because the language is widely spoken. At flea markets, feel free to haggle.

The best deals are clothes, shoes and accessories. It would not be difficult to find a pair of jeans for \$5 to \$7 and summer dresses for less than \$10. Bags, belts and high-heeled shoes can run you as little as \$5, even at department stores.

Megan Lacy, a 22-year-old Indianapolis resident, found a bargain at Greenhills, in Manila's suburb of San Juan. She flew to the capital this past winter with her fiancé, a Filipino-American,

MANILA MALLS TO EXPLORE

SM MALLS

For shopaholics, a must-do is the chain of SM malls that dot the city, such as Megamall. They truly are full-day destinations. You can start your day with breakfast at a Starbucks, shop for groceries, grab an Asian buffet lunch, get a hair cut and a massage, then relax with the family at the cinema—all without leaving the mall.

The SM Mall of Asia facing Manila Bay is the third-largest mall in the world with a gross leasable area of 4.2 million square feet (390,000 sq. meters), according to a 2009 ranking by Forbes. Megamall, at 3.6 million square feet (330,000 sq. meters), and SM City North EDSA, at 3 million square feet (280,000 sq. meters) and expanding, are the other two Filipino malls among the global top 10.

GLORIETTA AND GREENBELT

In the swanky part of Manila, called Makati, you will find the Glorietta and Greenbelt shopping complexes. Prices here are higher than in SM, but still a lot cheaper than similarly luxurious stores in the United States. Foreign business executives and Western tourists are more frequently sighted here, because the area is surrounded by five-star hotels and is in the heart of Manila's financial center. After shopping, head for "The Spa" at Greenbelt 1, where an hour-long massage can cost just \$20.

TRINOMA

Short for "triangle north of Manila," Trinoma is a sprawling shopping complex in the Quezon City neighborhood of metro Manila. It is a rival to the SM malls and anchored by the Landmark department store, which has slightly lower prices and a wider selection than SM stores.

DIVISORIA AND 168

Tourists who want a more local, flea-market shopping experience, and even better prices, can head to Divisoria and the 168 shopping area. Shops here cater to the working class, or simply folks who want to pinch pennies. Kitchen items, underwear, clothes, shoes, fabric, designer knockoffs abound. It is not hard to find items from \$1 to \$3. But be prepared to fight crowds, and watch out for pickpockets and purse-snatchers.

as a missionary from her church.

"The prices are very reasonable," said Lacy, who bought a freshwater pearl necklace and ear-

rings for about \$30. "This would easily cost me double back home."

But it is tougher to find bargains in electronics

because they have to be imported from the United States, Japan and elsewhere. One exception: You might consider buying a cell phone because it comes unlocked. That means you can use the phone with any U.S. carrier with a GSM network, such as AT&T and T-Mobile. It also works in Asia and Europe as a local phone number.

When shopping for clothes, be aware that sizes tend to run small to fit smaller Asian frames, although that is changing as fast food is making waistlines bigger. Few shoes larger than a size 10 are available. Cotton fabrics also tend not to be pre-washed, so they will shrink in the dryer. So that souvenir for your teenage son—"My parents went to the Philippines and all I got was this T-shirt"—could end up as a shirt for your 9-year-old.

Be sure to ask about the return policy before you buy. Most places will not give a refund unless the product is clearly defective. It is good to carry cash, because credit cards are not as widely accepted as in the United States, and ask for any kind of receipt and keep it. It is your warranty for returns or exchanges.

Besides shopping, another bargain stands out at the mall: going to the movies. New releases hit Manila shortly after being released in the United States, and ticket prices are about \$3. For a more upscale experience, the Platinum Cinema at Gateway Mall in the Cubao neighborhood of metro Manila lets you watch movies while lounging on a La-Z-Boy armchair. A movie ticket costs \$7, and includes popcorn and soda.

Several malls have buffet restaurants as well as food courts, and you can get your fill of Filipino food as well as other Asian and Western cuisines.

Jackson doctor fights to keep medical license

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's doctor is "hanging on by a thread" and must be allowed to continue practicing medicine in order to pay for his defense on a manslaughter charge in the pop star's death, the physician's lawyers said in court papers filed Thursday.

Responding to a bid by the California attorney general to suspend Dr. Conrad Murray's medical license pending trial, attorneys Ed Chernoff and Joseph Low said that the effect would be devastating to the doctor who already faces a slew of financial problems.

"He is, without fear of overstatement, hanging on by a thread," the attorneys wrote. "His ability to pay for his own defense depends almost entirely on his ability to continue to treat patients."

Murray, who was working as Jackson's personal physician, is charged with involuntary manslaughter in the singer's death from the anesthetic propofol and other drugs. He

has pleaded not guilty.

Murray is scheduled for a court appearance Monday at which a judge may be assigned to his case and a preliminary hearing date selected.

The attorney general's office said a representative of the Medical Board of California will appear to challenge Murray's license. Murray has already been told not to use anesthetics.

Murray's lawyers said there is no need to revoke his California license since he does not practice in the state and cautioned that a suspension would have a "domino effect" leading to his inability to practice at his clinics in Nevada and Texas.

In this Monday, Feb. 8, 2010 file photo, Michael Jackson's physician, Conrad Murray, right, arrives for his arraignment at the Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles, where he is expected to face involuntary manslaughter charges in Jackson's death.

AP

"If Dr. Murray is unable to practice medicine in Texas, and especially Nevada, he will likely be faced with the inability to adequately defend himself of the charges facing him in the Superior Court of California," his lawyers wrote. "The case with which he is charged will require intensive attorney work and fees. In light of the fact that much of his defense will be scientifically based and involves the death of an internationally famous decedent, expenses for his defense will be considerable."

The attorneys also argued that the state is unfairly trying to curtail Murray's right to a full hearing by the medical board.

They said a suspension would affect his ability to pay child support and to pay his employees and would negatively impact the patients he is treating in Nevada and Texas.

Court records show Murray had serious financial problems when he signed on in May at \$150,000 per month to keep Jackson healthy through a series of comeback shows planned in London.

The cardiologist owed at least \$780,000 for settlements against his business, outstanding mortgage payments on his house, delinquent student loans, child support and credit cards. He faced near foreclosure on his Las Vegas country club home.

In January, he made a payment of \$1,003 on a \$15,500 child support debt involving a California woman and her 11-year-old son.

Nev. board files complaint against Jackson doc

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Nevada state medical officials have filed a formal complaint against Michael Jackson's doctor, saying he twice failed to mention delinquent child support payments on applications to renew his medical license.

Douglas Cooper, executive director of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, told The Associated Press on Thursday that an investigative arm of the board has filed a complaint against Conrad Murray. Cooper says the complaint could result in the revocation of Murray's license to practice medicine in the state.

Miranda Sevcik, spokeswoman for Murray and his lawyer, Edward Chernoff, says Murray's legal team received the complaint weeks ago and hopes to resolve it in a way that allows the doctor to keep his medical license.

Cooper says Murray will be allowed to present his side at a hearing in Reno. He says the board will not likely make a judgment before September. Murray also practices medicine in Houston and holds a medical license in California; however, the complaint applies only to Nevada.

Elton John stage at Mexico ruins partly collapses

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Part of the stage being set up for a weekend concert by singer Elton John at Mexico's famed Chichen Itza ruins collapsed during construction, injuring three workers, authorities said Thursday.

Two of the workers were treated for slight injuries and released, and the third was hospitalized with a broken leg. The British singer was not present when the accident occurred Wednesday night.

"There has been no discussion of canceling the event" scheduled for Saturday, said Francisco de Anda, a spokesman for Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History,



British musician Sir Elton John, left, speaks to gathered media as he arrives for the fifth anniversary show of the musical 'Billy Elliot' at a central London theatre, Wednesday, March 31, 2010.

which is in charge of the country's pre-Hispanic sites.

The institute said there was no damage to the 1,200-year-

old Mayan ruins. De Anda said the stage was put up at a distance from the pyramid and temples, precisely to avoid any potential damage.

De Anda said the upper lighting rails of the metal structure collapsed onto the stage area. The rails are used to hold spotlights and other technical equipment.

He said outside experts had been called in to review the structure to ensure it—or a replacement—could be safely installed.

Some Mexicans have opposed holding concerts at the ruin site, claiming it demeans their cultural significance and endangers the stone structures.

Man hesitates to reconcile with girlfriend he dumped

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I broke up with my girlfriend of almost two years last July because I thought I was going to be getting a job overseas and she would be staying in the States. We have always had a long-distance relationship (me being from New York and she from New Hampshire), and it didn't look like it would be any different for the next five or so years what with graduate school, etc.

I was becoming more and more distant in our relationship because I'd see her only for a weekend every other month or so, and the lack of physical contact left me feeling single but unavailable.

It has been many months now, and it turned out I didn't get the job after all. She's now living two hours away, and we're still on good terms. We talk occasionally but never about us. Our families loved each other, and we never had any deal-breaking fights.

Part of me wants to see if she wants to give it another shot, but the other half feels almost embarrassed to ask. What would you suggest I do?

MUSING IN THE EMPIRE STATE

DEAR MUSING: Sitting around "musing" won't solve your problem. So get off the dime and ASK her before someone else steps in and does!

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married a year and a half. My husband works three jobs because he wants material things. We spend very little time together and when we do, it's sleep and sports. We don't go out to dinner or movies. I feel like I'm just here so he can get the material things he wants.

LONESOME IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LONESOME: You and your husband are overdue for some serious discussions regarding priorities, goals and values because it appears you are far out of sync. Tell him that while you admire his drive and ambition, successful marriages take work, too.

While many people can hold down two jobs, trying to hold down three is a challenge. A person can't put forth his best effort if he's exhausted all the time—and fatigue leads to mistakes and inefficiency. For the sake of your husband's health, he should rethink what he's doing.

P.S. Speak up now, because if you truly believe you're just there so he can get the material things he wants, it doesn't take a crystal ball to see this marriage may not be one of long duration.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago I met someone who became larger than life to me. I was happier than I ever dreamed, but it wasn't to be. He was killed six months later in a car accident. His best friend, "Tom," was driving.

I went to visit Tom in the hospital and from then on we became inseparable. At first, it was to soothe each other's pain of losing someone we both loved, but it grew into something more.

I currently live with Tom's family and work in their business without pay. Essentially, I'm one of the family. I could not ask for a more loving adoptive family, but I don't want to be "family." I lie awake at night thinking about Tom, blush if our hands touch and have to catch my breath when he looks at me.

How do I tell the man I love that I have fallen for him when he considers me like a little sister? Is what I'm feeling even appropriate?

UNSURE IN NEW YORK

DEAR UNSURE: I think so. You suffered a devastating loss. Tom and his family have filled the void, so your feelings are understandable. You will never know whether Tom feels the same way about you if you don't bring up the subject. If you're afraid to do that, then talk to his mother. She'll be able to give you some insight—and perhaps some encouragement. But don't wait much longer, because if he doesn't feel the same, you need to move out and move on with your life.

Ivanka Trump's accused stalker freed on \$10K bond

NEW YORK (AP)—A self-described celebrity stalker obsessed with Ivanka Trump threatened to kill himself in her jewelry store and "commander" her husband's newspaper in e-mail and Twitter messages to the couple, prosecutors said Thursday.

"I won't just be ignored," Justin Massler wrote in an August e-mail to the newspaper, The New York Observer, according to a court complaint filed at his arraignment Thursday.

He added in another message that unless he got an



In this April 21, 2009 file photo, television personality Ivanka Trump attends the Tribeca Film Festival Vanity Fair party in New York.

autographed photo, he would commit suicide at The Ivanka Trump Collection boutique to damage its reputation, "or my only other option will be to simply stalk Ivanka Trump in a maniacal manner for this picture by becoming nothing other than a deranged celebrity stalker," according to the court documents.

Massler, 27, didn't enter a plea. His lawyer, George Vomvolakis, said the messages didn't amount to crimes, and Massler "at no point intended to follow through with any of these comments."

Massler was released on \$10,000 bond, with orders to get psychiatric care as he awaits trial at his mother's home in Reno, Nev.

Trump, the daughter of Donald and Ivana Trump, declined to comment.

She co-hosts NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice" and is a vice president at her father's real estate company. Her husband, Jared Kushner, is the publisher of The New York Observer and an executive at his family's real estate business, the Kushner Cos. The couple got married in October.

Sarah Palin special airs after interview disputes

NEW YORK (AP)—After an uproar by two big-name subjects of canned interviews, Sarah Palin's first TV special aired Thursday on Fox News Channel.

During "Real American Stories," the former Alaska governor and vice presidential candidate narrated heart-tugging profiles of Americans overcoming adversity and helping others.

"Heroism, courage, generosity and a warrior spirit—these are things that unite all Americans," said Palin, clad in a bright red blazer, at the top of the hour.

Stories included that of George Weiss, a wealthy businessman who helps prepare underprivileged students for college and pays for their education.

After the profile, Palin introduced her studio audience to a group of grade-school students being helped by Weiss' Say Yes to Education Foundation.

"There's such power in this idea of the voluntary private-sector contribution that George and others now are making," Palin said.

Other stories told of Jason Dunham, a heroic Marine who gave his life to save his comrades in Iraq, and by Cole Massie, a child with cerebral palsy who was inspired to walk by his service dog.

Palin welcomed Cole, his parents and, of course, the beloved dog for a follow-up studio interview.

"I don't know what my next

goal is," Cole told her. "With this dog ... the sky is the limit."

But earlier in the week, actor-singer LL Cool J had complained when he learned about



In this March 26, 2010 file photo, Sarah Palin speaks at a campaign rally for Sen. John McCain at the Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson, Ariz.

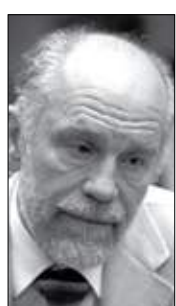
Actor Malkovich in legal drama over Madoff claim

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor John Malkovich's lawyers have complained to a judge in New York overseeing the bankruptcy of jailed financier Bernie Madoff that he'll only get \$670,000 of his \$2.2 million claim.

The lawyers filed papers Thursday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court saying the actor should be entitled to \$2.2 million.

They say the trustee handling the estate determined that the

actor was entitled to the smaller number and that's wrong.



Malkovich

The 56-year-old star of such films as "Being John Malkovich" and "Burn After Reading" is among thousands of investors who lost tens of billions of dollars in the multi-decade fraud that Madoff revealed in December 2008 when he ran out of money.

Madoff is serving a 150-year jail term after pleading guilty to fraud charges.

Fans want Michael Jackson's name back on LA school

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles school officials told Michael Jackson to beat it seven years ago. Now, fans of the late pop star want him back. Supporters have started a Facebook petition to have Jackson's name restored to the auditorium of Gardner Street Elementary School. They want fans to download and sign a letter to the school district superintendent. Jackson donated money to the

Hollywood school and attended the naming ceremony in 1989. But school officials, acting on parental requests, covered up his name in 2003 after Jackson was arrested for investigation of child molestation.

The Facebook campaigners note that Jackson was acquitted of the charges and they want the name restored.

Jackson was 50 when he died in June.

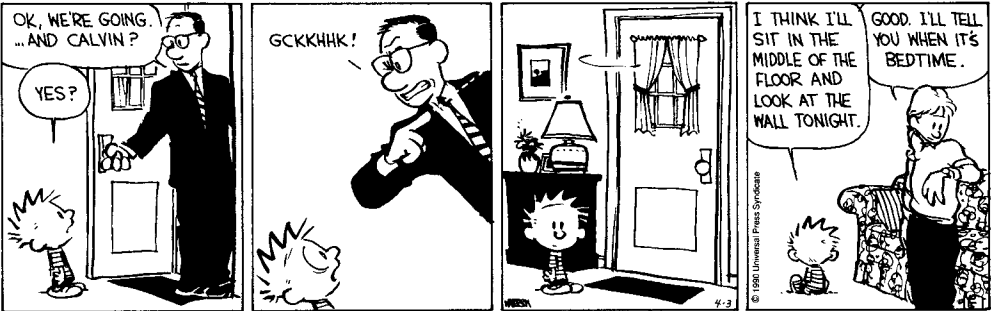
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

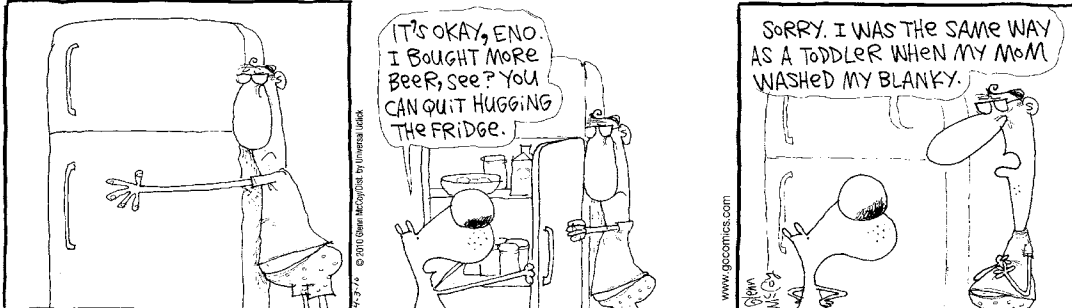
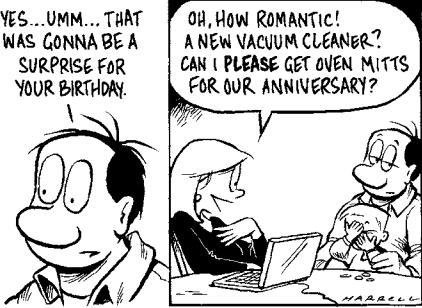
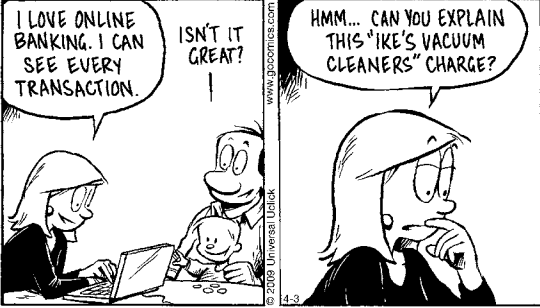


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

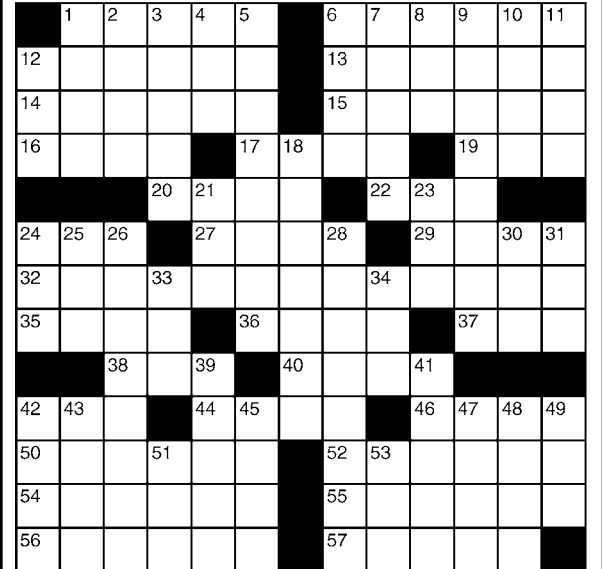


CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 — budget 43 Chowd down 23 White House 40 Forwarded 5 Breakfast nickname 42 Possess menu 24 Awful 44 Crystal name 25 Regret 46 Knocks 6 Mexican 26 Warn 50 Burglaries 7 — acid 28 One of the stars of 52 Green-house gas 8 "Family Guy" daughter 30 Greek vowel 54 Networks 9 Short theater works 31 Church seat 55 Crude dwelling 10 Green 33 Charged bit 56 Orb 11 Grate 34 Helio-centrist's heart 57 They have strings 12 Shock partner 39 Michael-mas daisy 18 1902 ballad 41 Halloween option 19 "Uh-huh" 1 Factual popular at 42 Resistance measures 20 Fashion 2 Messes weddings 43 Sob 22 Lubricant up 44 Being (Lat.) 24 Mono-kini's lack 3 Seraglio 45 Teen's woe 46 Butter servings 47 Agent 48 Yon maiden 49 50 51 Actor McBride 52 53 54 55 56 57

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cokie Smulders, 28; Jennie Garth, 38; Eddie Murphy, 49; Alec Baldwin, 52

Happy Birthday: Get your finances in order this year. Look at your future logically and let go of all that's been weighing you down. A new attitude will bring about a new you and new beginnings. Don't get angry about the past, get moving forward and put the past behind you. Your numbers are 3, 13, 21, 27, 33, 36, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Getting together with people who are as aggressive as you are will lead to profits. A challenge will get you moving in spite of some of the setbacks you've encountered. Stay within your budget. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your day will be nonproductive if you leave room for someone to complain. Taking action will work but discussing a moot point will lead to setbacks and family feuds. Do something without being asked that will please your family. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be inclined to stretch the truth, especially if someone is trying to outdo you. Instead, stick to your game plan and focus on learning, sharing and caring with the people who mean the most to you. Someone who depends on you can also help you. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be prepared to answer any questions that you are asked with facts, figures and whatever else is required. The sooner you put people's minds at ease, the easier it will be to follow

through with your plans. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get away from work-related matters and focus more on fun and games. A short trip will lead to activities, events and people who will share valuable information, ideas and alternatives to the way you've been planning to proceed with your life. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can avoid being strung along by a big talker who is unlikely to honor promises made. Travel in order to have a face-to-face conversation. The rapport that develops will be well worth your time, effort and expense. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Taking on too much or overindulging in any way will cause you grief both personally and financially. You can expect to experience problems with someone you care about over a money matter. Put your time and effort into fixing up your home. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to change the nature of your business but, before you go down that path, check out the cost. It's probably better to take what you've already got and rework it to fit your new plans. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your effort into your home and comfort. Do as much of the work yourself as you can. Travel will be costly and will lead to unexpected delays and problems with authority figures. Don't deviate from the rules. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Love is in the stars and you should be planning

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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to do something entertaining either with your current partner or that will allow you to meet someone special. Don't limit your choices because you are too set in your ways. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rethink your future and strategize about what you want to do, can do and should do. You will get a good response if you put a new resume together. Getting involved in volunteer work will provide you with some added bonuses. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let your guard down, especially when working with people who are after the same goals you have in mind. You can expect the competition to be fierce and the underhandedness downright dirty. Don't give away your secrets. Remain calm. **

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, determined and stubborn. You will take on enormous tasks and find creative ways to cut corners. You are willing to take a chance.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays SUDOKU Answer

2	4	8	5	7	9	6	1	3
6	9	1	4	3	2	5	8	7
5	3	7	6	1	8	4	9	2
4	2	6	9	5	1	7	3	8
7	8	5	2	6	3	1	4	9
3	1	9	7	8	4	2	6	5
9	5	2	8	4	6	3	7	1
8	6	3	1	2	7	9	5	4
1	7	4	3	9	5	8	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/03

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ANCIENT ELIXIRS Solution: 7 letters

A R O M A T I C U R E W R H H
M L E R M N H S T W I N E T E
B E C D O I O I L A A A J R R
R G N H N R R I L I L U U E B
O E A A E I E U T I O P V A S
S N T I P M M P N O O D E T E
I D S S N R Y G M W P A N M T
A A B A O G T R E E G T A E S
L R U F E I H R E M C E T N A
C Y S H T U O Y S V S V I T
O N O I T U L O S W O S O S
H E M U S N O C A D E C N P
O S S E L E G A K R L E S M
L O R A L Y A S E L A T I O R
Y D E M E R A G U S A C R E D

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Ageless, Alchemy, Alcohol, Ambrosia, Aromatic, Brew, China, Consume, Cure, Discovery, Drops, Egyptian, Emperor, Formula, Gain, Gems, Healing, Herbs, Legendary, Mind, Mist, Mythology, Oils, Orally, Potion, Power, Rejuvenation, Remedy, Resins, Sacred, Solution, Spirit, Substance, Sugar, Sweet, Tales, Taste, Treatment, Update, Vodka, Wine, Youth

Yesterdays Answer: Flint

Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 postage and handling each (\$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 plus for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-842-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



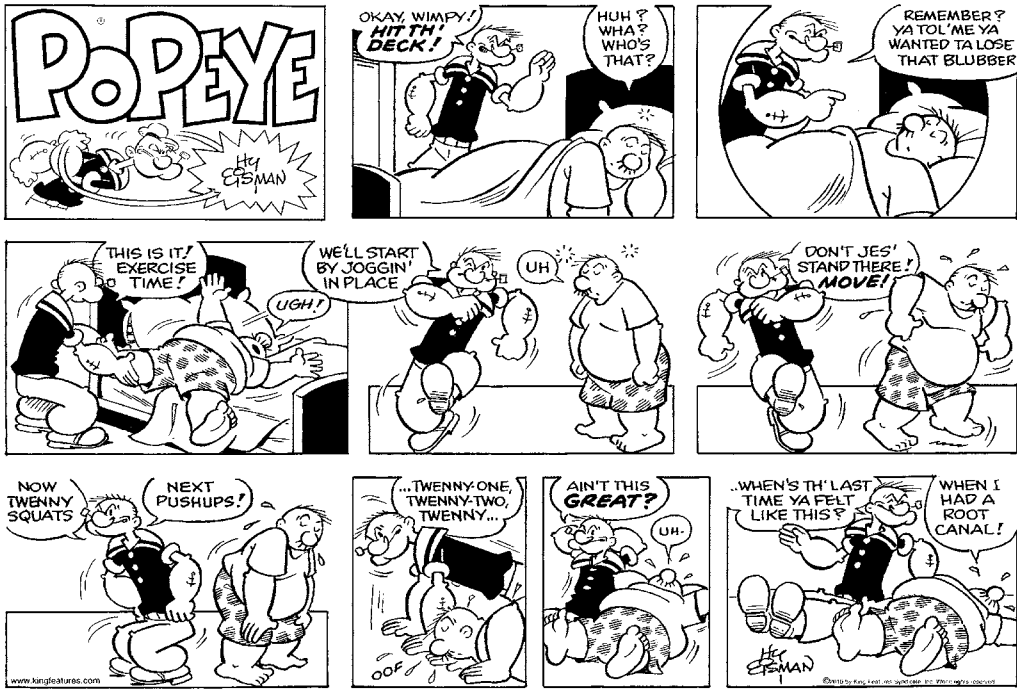
Differences: 1. Stick is shorter. 2. Boy has a backpack. 3. Girl's hat is black. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Boy's expression is different. 6. Boy's backpack is black.

Wishing Well®

5	2	6	4	7	2	7	3	6	5	7	2	4
Y	E	A	D	S	X	O	F	D	O	F	P	E
7	3	6	8	2	6	8	3	4	5	8	3	2
T	R	E	E	R	C	X	E	M	U	E	S	E
7	5	3	8	7	8	5	3	8	5	8	2	5
H	W	H	R	E	C	I	C	I	N	S	S	B
2	3	4	7	3	6	4	7	4	8	3	7	2
S	H	A	A	O	I	N	R	D	E	I	T	F
6	5	2	5	4	2	3	7	8	3	7	8	4
S	A	E	T	T	E	C	E	P	E	D	A	H
2	4	2	6	3	2	8	2	8	6	8	5	2
L	E	I	I	S	N	T	G	I	V	E	T	S
8	5	4	5	4	6	4	8	6	4	8	6	6
N	L	B	E	E	E	S	C	D	T	E	A	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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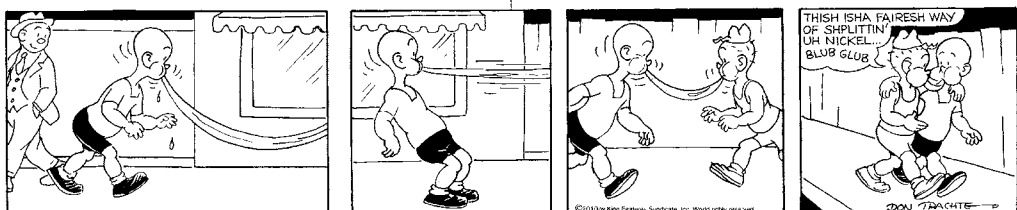
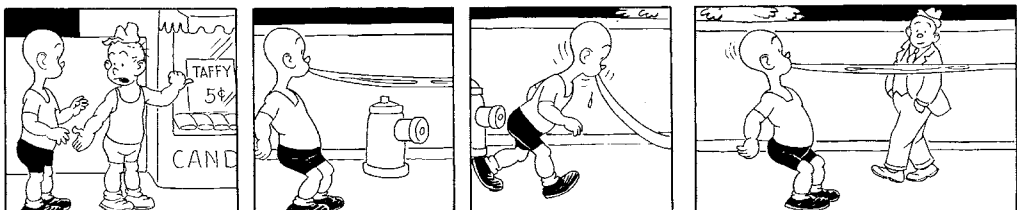
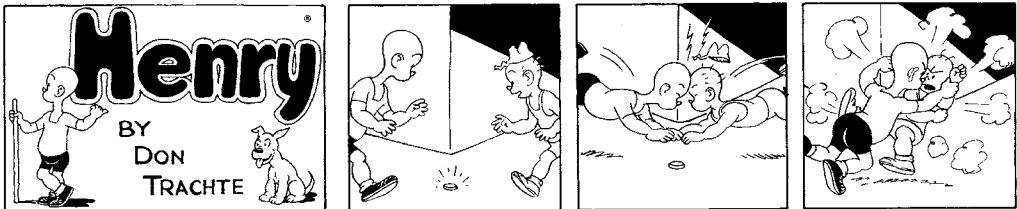
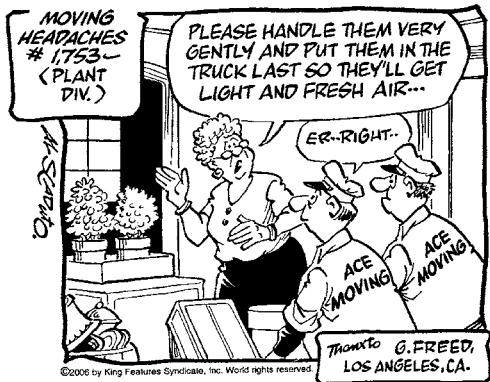


They'll Do It Every Time

J'EVER NOTICE? IT'S THE SKINNYS WHO ALWAYS ASK...



MOVING HEADACHES #1,753 (PLANT DIV.)



Super Crossword

REVERSE LOGIC

ACROSS

1 Deprivation
5 Tours
10 Turkish title
15 They
19 "Carmen"
20 Absinthe
21 Parcel
22 Oklahoma
23 Romance?
26 Stubbs or
27 Sound from
28 Dutch
29 Scheme
31 Cavity
32 Egg
34 Count the
38 Make
41 Scandi-
45 Novelist
46 Prepare
47 Some
49 Coat
50 Comic
52 Marion of
56 Stifle Dad?
60 Steak
62 Graceful girl
63 Clean the
64 GI's
65 Straight
67 Historical
68 Khartoum's
71 Likable Lee
73 "Dies —"
74 Prepare to
75 Write a
80 Pantry item
81 Talbot or
82 Part of MIT
83 Concerning
84 Furrow
85 Statistical
87 Long or
88 Chew the
92 Monroe's
94 Go downhill
95 Recess?
99 Lurid Lugosi
100 Congeal
102 Cheeseboard
103 Munich
104 Incites
108 Vapor
110 Cavalry
112 "Well, I'll
113 Hire a
118 Wordless
120 Literary
121 Actress
122 Metrical feet
126 Declaim
130 Actor Arnaz
132 Improve?
136 Trot or
137 Mountain
138 "— Gay"
139 Puppeteer
140 In addition
141 Mitigated
142 Widow's
143 Collar
DOWN

4 Lucifer
5 Candy
6 Adam's
7 Fissure
8 Tivoli's
9 Snicker
10 "Fie!"
11 Ginger —
12 Murdered
13 Mobs
14 Bear out
15 Tills or
16 Bumbling
17 Communal
18 Mrs.
24 British
25 "Wild Child"
30 "Stroker —"
33 Wedding
35 Terminate
36 Switch
37 Crooked
38 Basics
39 Gator's
40 Poi base
42 Caviar
43 Sea plea
44 '59 Marty
48 Scent of
51 Tenor Del
53 New York
54 Bit of
55 Mock
57 Sets
58 '60s
59 Sign
61 — cotta
62 Asylum
66 Emulates
69 Den
70 Senator
72 Computer
75 Bea Arthur
76 Maestro
77 "Big" star
78 Runny-
79 Vitality
80 Zodiac
86 San —
89 Colleague
90 Grocer's
91 Bronte
93 Halloween
96 Author
97 Super, for
98 Harbinger
101 Eastern
105 Common
106 Sand flea
107 Lady of
109 — milk
111 Carrot or
113 Scout's
114 Ryan of
115 "Wonder-
116 Java joints
117 Worked
119 Refuse
123 Non-stereo
124 Forehead
125 Belle —, FL
127 Blind as —
128 Skater
129 High-strung
131 Mineral
133 — Dawn
134 Peculiar
135 Organ of

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91
92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129
130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143



1. U.S. STATES: What is the state capital of Michigan?

2. LANGUAGE: What would "turbid" water look like?
3. AD SLOGANS: What company promoted its products with the slogan, "Nothin' says lovin' like something from the oven."
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the original of the international distress

signal "mayday"?
5. MEDICAL TERMS: What is the common name for "epistaxis"?
6. SCIENCE: What is the chemical element symbol for tungsten?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Faroe Islands located?

8. MOVIES: In "Star Wars," where did Luke Skywalker grow up?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What other spice is similar in flavor to mace?
10. HISTORY: What type of gun was used to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln?

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Saturday's Answers

1. Lansing	2. Muddy or cloudy	3. Pillsbury	4. The French term "mélange" or "come	5. Nosebleed	6. W	7. Halfway between Scotland and Iceland	8. The planet Tatooine	9. Nutmeg	10. A derringer pistol
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CLASSIFIED ADS



Saipan Tribune's Classified Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Anthony, Nuggets bounce back to top Blazers



DENVER (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored 13 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, helping the Denver Nuggets rebound from a tough week to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 109-92 on Thursday night.

Nene added 22 points and Chauncey Billups had 21 for the Nuggets, who won for only the second time in seven games. Denver dropped from second to fifth in the Western Conference playoff race during the slump.

Andre Miller scored 24 points to lead Portland, which had won its previous four games, including a victory over New York on Wednesday that clinched a playoff spot for the Trail Blazers.

Martell Webster added 17 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 for the Blazers, who lost for the 13th time in their last 14 games in Denver. Portland's only win in that span came on Dec. 16, 2007.

Brandon Roy's 3-pointer with 3:31 left in the third quarter pulled the Trail Blazers, who trailed by one at the break, to 74-72. But the Nuggets scored 13 of the next 17 points, capped by Billups' 3-pointer, to take an 87-76 lead into the final period.

With Anthony beginning the fourth with successive baskets, the second followed by a free throw to complete a three-point play, the Nuggets built a 92-78 cushion with 9:23 remaining, their biggest lead to that point. The Trail Blazers pulled to 94-86 on a pair of free throws by Roy with 6:32 left before the Nuggets pulled away again.

Leading 27-24 after the first quarter, Denver opened a 44-35 lead midway through the second with a 17-5 flurry fueled by a series of highlight reel baskets by J.R. Smith. The Nuggets' sixth man had eight of his 15 points in the run, including a rim-shaking dunk off Anthony Carter's alley-oop pass and a three-point play that began when he muscled in a driving reverse layup with Jerry Bayless draped around him.

The spectacular shots had the crowd roaring but Portland was unfazed, outscoring the Nuggets 16-8 in the last 3:37 of the quarter and pulling to 56-55 when Camby hit at 11-foot jumper as the halftime buzzer sounded.

Nuggets forward Chris Andersen injured his left ankle when he landed awkwardly trying to block a lay-up by Miller with 7:22 remaining in the game. Andersen limped off the court and did not return, but X-rays were negative.

Magic 97, Mavericks 82

At Dallas, Dwight Howard dominated inside with 17 points, 20 rebounds and



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, right, looks to pass the ball as Portland Trail Blazers forward Nicolas Batum, of France, defends in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Denver on Thursday, April 1, 2010.

five blocked shots, and his Orlando teammates converted 14 of 24 attempts from 3-point range as the Magic atoned for an earlier loss to Dallas with a victory over the Mavericks.

Reserve Mickael Pietrus had 24 points, making all six of his 3-point attempts, and Vince Carter added 19 points to help the Magic win for the 14th time in 16 games.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points for the Mavericks, whose three-game winning streak ended. Jason Terry and J.J. Barea had 16 points apiece for Dallas.

The Mavericks were 95-85 winners at Orlando on Feb. 19 in the only other meeting between the league powers this season. The Magic connected on only 4 of 25 from beyond the arc in that loss.

Orlando's long-range shooters were far more accurate in Thursday's rematch, getting off to a fast start by hitting 4 of their first 7 from 3-point territory.

Nowitzki scored 12 third-quarter points, but the rest of the Mavericks could manage only eight more as Or-



NBA BRIEFS

Shaq working his way back from thumb injury

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Cavaliers center Shaquille O'Neal is getting closer to returning from a thumb injury. O'Neal took part in some of practice Thursday, although coach Mike Brown isn't counting on him being back before the playoffs. O'Neal has been sidelined since tearing a ligament in his right thumb Feb. 25. He had surgery and was expected to miss the rest of the regular season. On Wednesday, the 14-time All-Star said he was ahead of schedule. Also, forward Anderson Varejao worked out after missing two games because of a sore left hamstring. He's a game-time decision for Friday's game against Atlanta.

Knee injury to sideline Hawes for rest of season

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The Sacramento Kings say center Spencer Hawes will miss the rest of the season with an injured left knee. The Kings say that an MRI done Thursday revealed a deep bone bruise and an irregular signal in the joint line in Hawes' left knee. Hawes will get a second opinion from the Seattle doctor who operated on his left knee before his rookie season. The Kings say Hawes will miss the final six games of the season. He is averaging 10.0 points and 6.1 rebounds per game.

Wade's wife responds to custody petition

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade's estranged wife has responded to the Miami Heat star's petition for sole custody of the couple's two children, saying the filings are retaliation to her asking for an order of protection last month. Wade filed for custody of the boys, ages 8 and 2, earlier this week. He also asked a Chicago court that his wife Siobhvaughn be psychologically evaluated. The couple separated in August 2007. Their divorce trial is scheduled to begin in June. "Our client believes that these vari-

ous papers were filed as retaliation for her legitimate claims filed March 19, 2010 in the Domestic Relations Court in a Petition for Order of Protection regarding the abuse by Mr. Wade dating back to 2006," Eunice Ward, an attorney in the Chicago firm representing Siobhvaughn Wade, said Thursday in an e-mail response to The Associated Press. Siobhvaughn Wade has previously alleged that her husband abandoned his children, that they were frightened to be around him, and that he was "guilty of extreme and repeated mental cruelty" toward her.

Wake Forest's Aminu declares for NBA draft, will hire agent

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—Wake Forest forward Al-Farouq Aminu declared for the NBA draft on Thursday and announced he will hire an agent, ensuring his departure with two years of eligibility remaining. The 6-foot-9 Aminu averaged 15.8 points this season and became the first Wake Forest player since Tim Duncan in 1997 to lead the Atlantic Coast Conference in rebounding at 10.7 per game. "This was a difficult decision," Aminu said in a statement. "But after talking it over with my family and my coaches, I believe now is the right time for me to pursue my dream of playing in the NBA." Coach Dino Gaudio said he did extensive research with NBA executives and believes Aminu is making the right choice. The Norcross, Ga., native is widely projected to be a first-round pick. "I want to wish Al-Farouq all the best," Gaudio said. "I'm looking forward to following his progress in what will undoubtedly be a successful pro career." Aminu is the fifth Wake Forest player to leave early for the NBA. Rodney Rogers left after his junior season in 1993, and Chris Paul left after his sophomore campaign in 2005. James Johnson and Jeff Teague both left after their sophomore seasons last year.

lando raced to a 72-56 lead entering the final quarter.

Dallas pulled to 91-82 on a basket by Barea with 1:14 left, but the Mavericks couldn't get any closer.

The Magic went 8 for 13 from long range in the first half to build a 43-36 lead at the break. Pietrus gave the Magic a lift in the second, scoring 13 of his team's first 14 points in the quarter.

The Mavericks had one of their poorest offensive first halves of the season, threatening their season low of 33 before hitting a pair of baskets over the final 1:12 of the half.

The Mavericks were coming off a 106-102 overtime victory in Memphis on Wednesday night, while the Magic had been off since Sunday's 103-97 home win over Denver.

Jets' Sanchez can't run, but will be OK for camp



FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Mark Sanchez has his sights set on jogging onto the field during training camp, even though he can't run anywhere right now.

The New York Jets quarterback is limited to only walking on his surgically repaired left knee six weeks after the procedure to repair the patella ligament.

"We're just working on strengthening, getting the range of motion back and it's feeling really good," Sanchez

said Thursday. "I'm walking around without a hiccup or anything. So they are really excited about the progress."

Sanchez said he had "no clue yet" when he would be able to get to football activities, but insists he'll be ready by training camp in late-July.

"Oh, absolutely," he said. "Without a doubt."

Sanchez had surgery on Feb. 17, an elective procedure to help prevent future problems with his knee. He dislocated the kneecap during fall practice before his junior season at Southern

California, then aggravated the injury against Carolina last Nov. 29.

"As cliché as it sounds, one day at a time and it's really like that," Sanchez said. "They've used the term 'cautiously aggressive.' They want to make sure that I'm getting sore and the right kind of sore—the right kind of sore without hurting. The kind of sore that you bounce back from, and that's the way it's been the entire time."

Sanchez, who led New York to the AFC title game as a rookie, was bedridden for a few days after the proce-

dures and couldn't drive for two weeks. So, the Jets helped him by bringing equipment for his rehabilitation to his home in New Jersey.

"The rehab process was a lot more difficult when no one was here and I was barely moving my leg and trying to get the swelling down," he said. "But now that I'm moving around and a lot of people are around, it's easy now. It's fun. I feel like I'm back in my groove, I'm back in the swing of things. Those first couple of weeks were long and the weather wasn't

great, so it wasn't very fun."

Sanchez has spent much of his time at the team's facility going over game film for hours at a time with offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer and quarterbacks coach Matt Cavanaugh.

"This surgery taught me a lot about what I can accomplish in the offseason," Sanchez said. "And if I never would've had the surgery, who knows? I might've been home. But now that I've been here, I feel like this is where I should be as soon as the offseason starts to get a couple weeks here to sit down with the coaches, talk to them about all the plays that we watched at least two, three times from the entire season."

Percy ties for the lead at Houston Open



HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Another Australian is off to a fast start at

the Houston Open.

Cameron Percy shot a 67 late Thursday afternoon to tie Kevin Stadler for the first-round lead and extend a streak at the tournament for players from Down Under. An Aussie has led or shared the first-round lead in Houston every year since 2006, when the event moved to the Tournament Course at Redstone.

Six Australians have won a total of eight Houston Opens, including Stuart Appleby in 2006 and Adam Scott in '07. Appleby also won in 1999, and Bruce Crampton won twice (1973 and 1975).

Percy, a Tour rookie, would be more of a long shot, considering some of the big names in the field. Percy arrived in Houston ranked 173rd in putting average and the extra practice on the green this week paid off on Thursday.

"A friend of mine sat me down Tuesday, he looks at my stats," Percy said. "He said, 'Cam, you've got to do something about your putting. It's just woeful, only 70 percent, maybe from 3 feet.' I spent hours and hours on the putting green Tuesday and Wednesday, and it's made a little difference."

Stadler took advantage of an early tee time and posted his 67 more than an hour before Percy teed off.

Vaughn Taylor and James Driscoll—Stadler's playing partners in a morning threesome—were a stroke back along with fellow morning starter Kevin Sutherland and Anthony Kim, who played in the afternoon when the wind picked up and gusted to 30 mph.

"I thought it was going to die down," Percy said, "but it never did."

Phil Mickelson, Padraig Harrington, Lee Westwood and Scott topped a group two strokes back at 69.

Ernie Els, coming off consecutive victories at Doral and Bay Hill, opened with 70. Fred Couples, who has won three straight starts on the Champions Tour, shot a 71.

Several top players have come to Houston because they view the Tournament Course at Redstone as an ideal dry run for next week's Masters. Or-



Cameron Percy, of Australia, tees off on the eighth hole during the first round of the Houston Open PGA Tour golf tournament Thursday, April 1, 2010 in Humble, Texas.

ganizers have groomed the 7,457-yard layout to simulate the conditions at Augusta National, with fast greens, shaved mounds, light rough and the fairways

mowed toward the tee.

But Harrington said now that the tournament has started, the players are focused on winning more than fine-

tuning their games.

"It's all about trying to win the Houston Open," he said. "Augusta can wait three more days."

Harrington said he played conservatively after a disappointing session on the practice range. He made three straight birdies on the back nine, playing his best after the wind picked up in the early afternoon.

"I was never quite sure of myself," he said. "I was happy to play the golf I played. I made the most of my opportunities when they came around. I just wasn't very confident."

Kim was tied for the lead after making three straight birdies on his back nine, then finished with an adventurous bogey on the difficult 18th. Kim drove into the water, then hit his third shot off a corporate suite and over the water-guarded green. He pulled off a spectacular pitch over the massive greenside bunker, and the ball stopped 2 feet away.

"I didn't like my chances there," Kim said. "I was looking right at the water and looked like the sand was pretty soft. So if I didn't hit it perfectly, it's going to be in one of those two spots."

Stadler, Taylor and Driscoll said they fed off each other, and they finished with six birdies apiece.

Taylor birdied five of his first eight holes, sinking a 47-footer on No. 3 and a 23-footer on No. 6. Driscoll made the turn at 2 under, then birdied three of his first five holes on the back nine to move within a shot of Taylor's lead.

Stadler then surged to 6 under with four straight birdies on the back nine. He settled for a 67 after a bogey on the last hole.

"We had a good time out there," Stadler said. "I was kind of kicking back, watching those guys make putts most of the day. I made a few late to kind of catch up to them."

The water-lined, 472-yard 18th was the hardest hole in the first round, playing to a 4.413-stroke average.

Defending champion Paul Casey withdrew Thursday morning because of a left shoulder injury. The 32-year-old Englishman called it "just a one-week thing" and won't keep him out of next week's Masters.

Vijay Singh withdrew with a back injury after playing nine holes, the third time in three weeks that he's pulled out of a tournament.



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The NCAA appears to be on the verge of expanding the men's basketball tournament

to 96 teams.

Insisting that nothing has been decided, NCAA vice president Greg Shaheen nonetheless outlined a detailed plan Thursday that included the logistics and timing of a 96-team tournament, how much time off the players would have and even revenue distribution.

Shaheen said the NCAA looked at keeping the current 65-team field and expanding to 68 or 80 teams, but decided the bigger bracket was best fit logistically and financially.

It would be played during the same time frame as the current three-week tournament and include first-round byes for 32 teams.

Although the plan still needs to be approved by the Division I Men's Basketball Committee and passed on to the board of directors, most of the details already seem to be in place.

NCAA mulling expansion to 96 teams

"We needed to make sure that we did everything possible to use the due diligence window to understand ourselves and understand what the future would hold," Shaheen said. "So that's what we're doing, that's the process we're undertaking. We've been handling it every day for the last several months and years, as we studied for the benefit of the organization."

The men's tournament last expanded in 2001, adding one team to the 64-team field that was set in 1985.

The 96-team tournament would likely envelop the 32-team NIT, though Shaheen said no decision has been made on what to do with the NCAA's other, independently operated season-ending tournament.

The new format would start two days later than the current 65-team field because it would eliminate the Tuesday play-in game and would conclude on the same day, a Monday. It would be played at one fewer venue—again, the

play-in game—and the NCAA says it would include no additional travel time for teams.

The first-round games for the 64 non-bye teams would take place on Thursday and Friday, with the winners playing the top eight seeds in each region on Saturday and Sunday. Winners on Saturday would likely play again on Tuesday, and the Sunday winners on Wednesday.

Those winners would then move on to the regionals, playing alternate days starting on Thursday. Shaheen said the NCAA hasn't decided on whether to keep the same sites for second and first-round games or to make the midweek sites the same as the regionals.

He also said the amount of time student-athletes would be out of school would be roughly the same as the current model, but teams that play in the opening round and keep winning would actually be out an entire week

of school instead of just a few days.

"On a 96-team basis—vs. the current 97 teams that the NCAA conducts through the championship and the NIT, for example—you have, on a side-by-side basis, a reduction in the travel time," Shaheen said.

Adding teams to the NCAA tournament could create some monumentally lopsided games, or seeds in the 30s and 90s playing each other. There might be less importance on the regular season and conference tournaments; the resume wouldn't need to be padded so much if more teams get in.

"I don't see any watering down at all," Minnesota coach Tubby Smith said. "I think there are a number of teams playing in the NIT that could have gotten in, and I think there will be more people and more excitement with more teams in."

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said he would like to see regular-

season and conference tournament champions get automatic bids to the NCAA tournament.

"The regular season would mean something," he said. "There would still be bubble teams and all that, but we would reward those teams accordingly. And I would still like the conference tournament champions. They make a lot of money and celebrate each conference. I think it's a way of each conference celebrating their conference, which is a good thing."

Any plans to expand the tournament hinge on the NCAA's \$6 billion television deal with CBS.

The 11-year deal, signed in 1999, has a mutual opt-out until July 31. The NCAA has already spoken with numerous networks about expansion, so the opt-out is at least on the table, and adding 32 more teams is certainly going to bring in more revenue.

The proposal is strictly for the men's tournament. Another NCAA committee is looking at whether to expand the women's tournament or keep it in the current format.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	47	27	.635	—
Toronto	37	37	.500	10
New York	26	48	.351	21
Philadelphia	26	49	.347	21 1/2
New Jersey	10	65	.133	37 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	53	22	.707	—
x-Atlanta	48	26	.649	4 1/2
Miami	41	34	.547	12
Charlotte	39	35	.527	13 1/2
Washington	22	52	.297	30 1/2

Central Division

y-Cleveland	59	16	.787	—
Milwaukee	41	33	.554	17 1/2
Chicago	35	39	.473	23 1/2
Indiana	28	47	.373	31
Detroit	23	51	.311	35 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-Dallas	50	26	.658	—
San Antonio	45	29	.608	4
Memphis	38	36	.514	11
Houston	37	37	.500	12
New Orleans	35	41	.461	15

Northwest Division

x-Utah	50	26	.658	—
x-Denver	49	27	.645	1
Oklahoma City	46	28	.622	3
x-Portland	46	30	.605	4
Minnesota	15	60	.200	34 1/2

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	54	21	.720	—
x-Phoenix	49	26	.653	5
L.A. Clippers	27	48	.360	27
Sacramento	24	52	.316	30 1/2
Golden State	21	53	.284	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 97, Dallas 82
Denver 109, Portland 92

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	73	738	566	2170	29.7
Durant, OKC	74	709	669	2195	29.7
Anthony, DEN	63	633	477	1795	28.5
Bryant, LAL	70	695	419	1903	27.2
Wade, MIA	71	653	486	1860	26.2
Ellis, GOL	61	603	280	1556	25.5
Nowitzki, DAL	75	661	487	1852	24.7
Granger, IND	55	437	311	1328	24.1
Bosh, TOR	67	580	438	1606	24.0
Stoudemire, PHX	75	629	452	1711	22.8
Roy, POR	61	468	329	1336	21.9
Johnson, ATL	72	603	211	1537	21.3
Randolph, MEM	73	601	316	1532	21.0
Jackson, CHA	74	555	312	1538	20.8
Rose, CHI	70	591	221	1416	20.2
Evans, SAC	66	486	327	1333	20.2
Lee, NYK	73	611	241	1463	20.0
Maggette, GOL	64	421	426	1279	20.0
Gay, MEM	72	544	266	1418	19.7
Billups, DEN	67	370	433	1318	19.7

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	467	770	.606
Perkins, BOS	291	483	.602
Hillario, DEN	402	676	.595
Gasol, MEM	378	651	.581
Bynum, LAL	392	688	.570
Boozer, UTA	580	1032	.562
Horford, ATL	431	767	.562
Stoudemire, PHX	629	1136	.554
Lee, NYK	611	1117	.547
Millsap, UTA	355	651	.545

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	75	266	740	1006	13.4
Randolph, MEM	73	304	559	863	11.8
Lee, NYK	73	204	656	860	11.8
Camby, POR	69	234	565	799	11.6
Boozer, UTA	73	165	651	816	11.2
Bosh, TOR	67	195	538	733	10.9
Wallace, CHA	69	138	582	720	10.4
Bogut, MIL	67	203	483	686	10.2
Murphy, IND	65	107	558	665	10.2
Duncan, SAN	71	208	518	726	10.2

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	74	824	11.1
Paul, NOR	43	466	10.8
Williams, UTA	70	742	10.6
Rondo, BOS	73	714	9.8
Kidd, DAL	74	674	9.1
James, CLE	73	623	8.5
Westbrook, OKC	74	591	8.0
Davis, LAC	71	564	7.9
Harris, NJN	57	396	6.9
Wade, MIA	71	469	6.6

SHELL HOUSTON OPEN SCORES

HUMBLE, Texas (AP) — Scores Thursday after the first round of the \$5.8 million Houston Open at the 7,457-yard, par: 72 Redstone Golf Club:

FIRST ROUND

Kevin Stadler	34-33-67
Cameron Percy	34-33-67
Vaughn Taylor	31-37-68
James Driscoll	34-34-68
Kevin Sutherland	33-35-68
Anthony Kim	35-33-68
Bryce Molder	35-34-69
Nicholas Thompson	35-34-69
Phil Mickelson	33-36-69
Adam Scott	34-35-69
Padraig Harrington	34-35-69
Matt Kuchar	34-35-69
Omar Uresti	35-34-69
Lee Westwood	34-35-69
Justin Leonard	33-36-69
Woody Austin	36-34-70
Jason Bohn	34-36-70
Justin Rose	32-38-70
Stuart Appleby	34-36-70
Jeff Maggert	35-35-70
Steve Marino	33-37-70
Roland Thatcher	34-36-70
Brian Stuard	35-35-70
Chad Campbell	37-33-70
Joe Ogilvie	35-35-70
Shaun Micheel	35-35-70
Ernie Els	33-37-70
Martin Laird	36-34-70
Alex Prugh	33-37-70
Chris Riley	35-36-71
Scott Piercy	36-35-71
Michael Allen	35-36-71
Johnson Wagner	35-36-71
Brad Faxon	37-34-71
Carl Pettersson	35-36-71
Angel Cabrera	37-34-71
Rich Beem	35-36-71
Michael Connell	34-37-71
Spencer Levin	35-36-71
Chris Baryla	37-34-71
Soren Kjeldsen	38-33-71
Graham DeLaet	37-34-71
Charl Schwartzel	35-36-71
Fred Couples	37-34-71
Martin Kaymer	38-33-71
D.A. Points	37-35-72
Paul Goydos	37-35-72
Steve Wheatcroft	35-37-72
J.P. Hayes	38-34-72
Alex Cejka	33-39-72
Garrett Willis	36-36-72
John Merrick	36-36-72
Chris Wood	35-37-72
Frank Lickliter II	36-36-72
Brenden Pappas	35-37-72
Rickie Fowler	35-37-72
Matt Bettencourt	35-37-72
Chris Tidland	38-34-72
Brendon de Jonge	35-38-73
Fredrik Jacobson	40-33-73
Tag Ridings	36-37-73
Ben Curtis	

Brett Wetterich	36-37-73
Scott McCarron	37-36-73
Greg Chalmers	35-38-73
Ricky Barnes	35-38-73
Jason Day	38-35-73
Josh Teater	35-38-73
Andrew Svoboda	37-36-73
Blake Adams	35-38-73
Aaron Baddeley	36-37-73
Bubba Watson	36-37-73
Luke Donald	37-36-73
Steve Elkington	36-37-73
Mark Calcavecchia	37-36-73
Pat Perez	36-37-73
John Rollins	36-37-73
Bo Van Pelt	38-35-73
Lucas Glover	35-38-73
Derek Lamely	35-38-73
Bob Estes	37-36-73
Jimmy Walker	39-34-73
Chris Wilson	40-33-73
Troy Merritt	35-38-73
Justin Bolli	35-38-73
Simon Dyson	36-37-73
Andres Romero	38-36-74
Will MacKenzie	37-37-74
Y.E. Yang	37-37-74
Hunter Mahan	37-37-74
J.J. Henry	37-37-74
Tim Thelen	35-39-74
David Lutterus	36-38-74
Bill Lunde	38-36-74
Rory McIlroy	37-37-74
Andrew McLardy	41-33-74
John Mallinger	36-38-74
Geoff Ogilvy	38-36-74
Roger Tambellini	36-38-74
Matt Every	38-36-74
Kris Blanks	37-37-74
Kevin Johnson	36-38-74
Henrik Bjornstad	35-39-74
Webb Simpson	38-37-75
Chez Reavie	36-39-75
Ben Crane	36-39-75
Ryan Palmer	40-35-75
Jason Gore	38-37-75
Harrison Frazar	41-34-75
William McGirt	39-36-75
James Nitties	34-41-75
Jay Williamson	38-37-75
Daniel Chopra	37-38-75
Kevin Streelman	37-38-75
Jonathan Byrd	38-37-75
Rich Barcelo	40-35-75
Chris Stroud	38-38-76
Brian Davis	40-36-76
Cameron Beckman	36-40-76
Jeff Overton	38-38-76
Michael Bradley	39-37-76
Jeff Quinney	38-38-76
Matt Jones	35-41-76
Tim Petrovic	38-39-77
Michael Letzig	40-37-77
Vance Veazey	40-37-77
Ted Purdy	39-38-77
Charles Howell III	36-41-77
Fran Quinn	38-39-77
Craig Bowden	39-38-77
Martin Flores	38-40-78
D.J. Trahan	39-39-78
Brandt Snedeker	40-38-78
Briny Baird	38-40-78
Greg Kraft	39-40-79
Jeff Klauk	40-39-79
Nick O'Hern	39-40-79
Billy Mayfair	37-42-79
Jerod Turner	38-41-79
Davis Love III	40-40-80
Mathew Gogglin	38-42-80
Parker McLachlin	41-43-84
Greg Owen	WD
Vijay Singh	WD

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA MEN'S LEAGUE

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 MP United FC	3	3	0	0	17	2	+15	9
Wild Bills	3	2	1	0	8	2	6	7
Inter Godfathers	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
K. Seniors	3	2	0	1	7	7	0	6
Matansa FC	3	1	1	4	5	-1	4	3
Tan Holdings FC	3	1	0	2	4	10	-6	3
Young Guns	3	0	0	3	3	9	-6	0
K. Juniors	3	0	0	3	0	10	-10	0

27 EVENTS

From Page 28

Olympic Committee to organize the 14th edition of the quadrennial meet, confirmed the calendar of events in last month's meeting in Fiji, according to Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael While. Making the list are athletics, basketball, beach and indoor volleyball, soccer, golf, weightlifting, swimming, Rugby 7's, tennis, table tennis, va's (canoe racing), badminton, baseball, boxing, cricket, karate, squash, surfing, taekwondo, shooting, archery, triathlon, sailing, body building, power lifting, and judo.

Originally, 28 sports were recommended for the Pacific Games. However, cycling was left out as it did not get the required number of participants, which is a minimum of six countries/islands.

Next year's Pacific Games will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10 with Noumea serving as the main hub and 10 other cities/towns hosting other events.

More than 5,000 athletes and officials from 22 countries will be featured in the two-week competition.

Included on the list is the CNMI. However, only golf has started a series of qualifying tournaments to determine the five players who will represent the Commonwealth to the Pacific Games.

Other sports are expected to follow suit after the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August, as White during the past NMASA meetings reiterated the importance of early preparation and fundraising of interested sports associations.

In 2007, when Samoa hosted the XIII Pacific Games, the CNMI had a lean delegation, bringing only 12 athletes and officials to Apia. White headed the delegation as chef de mis-

sion and was joined by athletics' Tyrone Omar, Dexter Dillay, and Elias Rangamar, beach volleyball's Mark McDonald, Tyce Mister, Melissa Halaby, Nina Mosley, and Russ Quinn, and tennis' Tim Quan.

Meanwhile, after the selection of sports, next up for business for the Association Nouvelle-Calédonie 2011 and the Pacific Games Council are the eligibility rules. White said the rules may be released next month.

In Samoa, only the citizens and passport holders of the country they are representing were allowed to compete. Next year, some countries/islands, including the CNMI are hoping the "grandfathering system," will be in effect in Noumea. This system would allow athletes who had competed in the Pacific and Mini Games in the past or from 2005 and earlier to participate in the 2010 Pacific Games.

Erik Morales wins comeback fight; hunt for Pacquiao continues

The legendary three-time world champion Erik "El Terrible" Morales made a successful return Sunday and beat José "Quiebra Jicara" Alfaro of Nicaragua by unanimous decision for the vacant WBC International welterweight title in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico.

According to the Spanish language boxing website notifi-fight.com, it was a more difficult fight than expected for Morales as he was forced to fight the aggressive Nicaraguan from the opening bell.

Alfaro kept moving forward despite being cut early as both fighters kept giving and taking a lot of punches.

Morales nursed a narrow lead going into the last four rounds. Alfaro pressed on going for a knockout but Morales summoned his years of experience to prevail by scores of 117-111, 116-112, and 116-112.

The 33 year old Morales came back after being away from the ring for more than two years. He now has a record of 49 wins and 6 losses with 34 KOs while the 26 year old Alfaro dropped to 23-6, 20 KOs.

Prior to this fight, Morales said that he would like to fight Pacquiao for the fourth time.

"One must pursue the dream" Morales said, "Defeating Pacquiao is my greatest accomplishment in the ring. I remember seeing him cry after our fight. I would love another chance at Pacquiao and I also look forward to fighting Juan Manuel Marquez in the future."

Morales is the last man to beat Pacquiao. In March 19, 2005, he won by unanimous decision against the Filipino boxing icon but would lose to Pacquiao by knockout twice in 2006. (PDI)



SWAIM

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Inter Godfather's victory, while Masatoshi Otsuka, Chris Nelson, and Jacob Van Dam contributed one each. Tan Holding's lone goal came from Li Guang Lin in the 67th minute.

Inter led at halftime, 2-0, behind Holley's goal in the 10th and Otsuka's in the 25th minute. Holley lit up the scoreboard anew in the 55th minute and 10 minutes later, it was Nelson's turn to find the back of the net, giving Inter a 4-0 lead. Van Dam made it to the

scoreboard in the 75th minute.

Matansa 1, Wild Bill's 1

The last game of the day between Matansa and Wild Bill's ended in a draw, 1-1.

Matansa's Dhiraj Singh Chhetri first broke into the scoreboard with a goal in the 31st minute. Five minutes before the break, Schroeder tied the match and then neither team scored in the second half.

The draw was Wild Bill's first after winning its first two games, keeping the team in second place in the team standings.

Matansa is at the middle of the pack with its 1-1-1 win-draw-loss record and four points.

TRIATHLETES

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one hour, 57 minutes, and 23 seconds in the 750-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike leg, and 5-km run. He shattered his 2009 time of 2:00:02 when he topped the same event and ruled the men's 45 to 49 age group. Daly was the lone XTERRA Sport participant to complete the course in under two hours, downing Colorado's Peyman Razifor (2:25:34) and Saipan's Noel Altamirano (2:26:27) and Derek Chambers (2:55:50).

The following week, Daly negotiated a different course in the longer 2010 Tagaman Triathlon, but produced the same result when he became the first male finisher from Saipan to complete the 2-km swim, 60-km bike race, and 15-km run.

Daly timed in at 3: 39:49 seconds to win the 45 to 49 age group in Tagaman, prevailing against 11 other participants.

The XTERRA and Tagaman winner was not done yet, as for the third straight week, he competed in another triathlon event, joining XTERRA Guam. In Guam, Daly negotiated the 1-km swim,

31-km bike race, and 8.2-km trail run in 3:32:41 to top the 45 to 49 age group and won over nine other triathletes, including fellow Saipan bet Russ Quinn.

Carey was with the small group of Saipan triathletes who joined XTERRA Guam and was the top finisher among the Commonwealth's bets.

The XTERRA World veteran finished third in the women's pro division behind Swiss champion Renata Bucher and American pro Shonny Vanlandingham. Carey timed in at 3:00:43 in XTERRA Guam, beating United Kingdom's Emma Ruth Smith and Daz Parker.

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Anthony, Nuggets
bounce back to
top Blazers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Swaim, Miller lift MP United past K. Seniors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI National Team members Nick Swaim and Joe Miller were unstoppable in MP United's 5-2 triumph against K. Seniors during their game in the 2010 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League last Sunday at the Oleai Sport Complex Field.

Swaim had a hat trick, while Miller added two goals, putting the two MP United strikers in the Top 2 in the race for the player with the most goals in the league. After three games, Miller has earned 10 goals, the most so far in the eight-team league, while Swaim has drilled four, tying Wild Bill's Jason Schroeder in second place.

Swaim's first goal against K. Seniors came two minutes after the latter's Kim Sung In gave his team a 1-0 lead. Swaim broke the tie with his second goal in the 31st minute and MP United made it a 3-1 lead

when Miller canned his first goal two minutes later. Two minutes before the first half ended, Miller was at it again, giving MP United a 4-1 advantage at the break.

In the second half, Swaim completed his hat trick with a goal in the 50th minute, while In ended K. Seniors' drought with a goal in the 65th minute.

The win was third in as many games for MP United, solidifying the team's hold to the top spot in the team standings. K. Seniors absorbed their

first loss in three games.

Inter Godfather's 5, THFC 1

In the first game, Inter Godfather's nailed its second win after downing Tan Holdings FC, 5-1.

Matthew Holley logged two goals in



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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Douglas Dillay is seen here competing in the 2010 Micronesian Games qualifier in long jump last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex. Long jump is one of the events to be played in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

27 events approved for 2011 Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Association Nouvelle-Calédonie 2011 approved the final list of events for the XIV Pacific Games, allowing 27 sports to be contested in Noumea next year.

Association Nouvelle-Calédonie 2011, the group tasked by the New Caledonian

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Carey



Daly

Triathletes are March's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The month of March showcased the CNMI's talents in triathlon, prompting Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association to hand the Male and Female Athletes of the Month awards to triathletes Kieran Daly and Miek Carey.

Daly got NMASA members' nods in the selection for the top performers of the month during the association's meeting on Thursday night after scoring a "three-peat."

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager started his winning run in March with a victory in the XTERRA Sport division of the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 13. Daly was the first overall finisher in the shorter off-road race after clocking in

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MP United's Nick Swaim looks at his teammates first before making an inbound during their game against K. Seniors in the NMIFA men's league on Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brian Nelvis in action during the USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day qualifying tournament held last Thursday at the Garapan sports club and watering hole.

Nelvis no April Fool in USSP 8-ball

Brian Nelvis wasn't fooling around April 1, winning the USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day qualifying tournament without dropping a game. Nelvis swept past Konrad



Reyes, Mark Butac, and Chester Cuento to sit atop the winner's bracket. Butac had defeated Brenda

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